■ METRO / A21

Oil tank spill stirs up Pandacan neighborhood

■ NEWS / A2

House approves long-delayed P1-trillion budget; now it has to clear in hostile Senate

■ NEWS / A6

PNP claims not given due process by CHR in Bicutan siege probe

■ ENTERTAINMENT / A2-1

Gov't offers loan to producers to stir activity in film industry

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Friday, March 24, 2006 ★★ 7 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 106 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Online 'hacktivists' launch virtual sit-in vs cops website

MAHIRAP I-DISPERSE ANG MGA 'TO!

COMPUTER-SAVVY FILIPINO protesters took civil disobedience to cyberspace yesterday, launching a "virtual sit-in" campaign that urges online activists to overwhelm the police website with numerous hits.

ONLINE/ A8

Teacher in GenSan asks erring pupils to undress

By Alcuin Papa *in Manila*
and Aquiles Z. Zonio, *PDI Mindanao Bureau*

EVEN AS THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION warned public school teachers yesterday against inflicting harmful or unusual punishment on students, parents were up in arms against another teacher who allegedly forced Grade 6 pupils who did poorly in exams to undress before their classmates.

TEACHER/ A15

Filipino singer wins world jazz competition in London

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—ONCE again, a Filipino is the best of 'em.

Jazz singer Mon David won the grand prize in the prestigious London International Jazz Competition (LIJC) last Wednesday, besting 106 vocalists from 27 countries.

The 52-year-old native of Pampanga began his performance at the finals—held at the Cadogan Hall in London's Sloane Square—with a few bars of an ethnic chant, singing a cappella the first lines of "Nature Boy," and then crooning "My One and Only Love" and "Lullaby of Birdland."

As LIJC Jazz Vocalist 2006, David will receive £1,000 (nearly P90,000) and take on engagements at the Jagz in Ascot and the 606 Club in Chelsea.

Confirming on Thursday news of his winning, David told his friends in Pampanga that in his spiel, he shared his "amazement at how music can transcend borders and cultural differences, how it can bring people together, how it can truly set us free."

Said David's 19-year-old daughter Nikki: "We were asking him if he had felt like he won it after he

FILIPINO/ A15

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

THE ONE AND ONLY Mon David (center) bested 106 jazz singers from 27 countries. On hand to fete him are RP Ambassador to the Court of St James's Edgardo Espiritu, Ann David, Lydia Espiritu, Mishka Adams, Ariz Guinto (partly hidden) and Nieves Bates of Candid Records.

Cha-cha gets going today

Barangay assemblies start people's initiative to amend Charter

Barangay San Lorenzo
PLEASE PARTICIPATE IN THIS IMPORTANT COMMUNITY EVENT. COME TO THE
BARANGAY GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ON SATURDAY 25 MARCH 2006
AT 9:00 A.M. - BARANGAY HALL
Chairman JOSHUA JOHN C. SANTIAGO

SIGNS OF THE TIMES. At the Legaspi Village Park, Legaspi Street, Makati City, an ordinary streamer could well be a cause for alarm. It announces the annual barangay general assembly. Only this year's is different. Its main agenda is to kick off a signature campaign to amend the Constitution through a people's initiative. It begins today nationwide, according to the reports of the PDI news bureaus.

JOAN BONDOC

By Joey A. Gabieta, *PDI Visayas Bureau*
Norman Bordadora and Juan Escandor Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

THE SIGNATURE CAMPAIGN to amend the Constitution began early this week and is expected to intensify when barangay assemblies are convened nationwide tomorrow March 25 and again on Oct. 21, officials yesterday said.

The barangay assemblies have the imprimatur of the Department of Interior and Local Government.

In Memorandum Circular No. 2006-25, issued March 10, the DILG directed local government officials to conduct the assemblies on March 25 and Oct. 21.

A people's initiative is one of the three modes of amending the 1987 Constitution. The others are Congress convening itself into a constituent assembly (Con-Ass) and a constitutional convention (Con-con) whose delegates are elected.

In the people's initiative, a petition for amendments requires the signatures of at least 12 percent of the total number of registered voters and at least 3 percent of every congressional district's registered voters.

Malacañang, through the DILG, is apparently pushing for a people's initiative because it is averse to a Con-con and Con-Ass is not likely to be convened because of strong opposition from senators.

Leyte Gov. Jericho Petilla acknowledged that a signature campaign for amending the Constitution through a people's initiative would be the main agenda in the barangay assemblies.

Petilla told the INQUIRER that he had directed all mayors and barangay officials in the province to gather the needed signatures in their respective areas during the assemblies.

CHA-CHA/ A15

20 officers in plot face court-martial

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE PHILIPPINE ARMY HAS RECommended court-martial proceedings against Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, the sacked Scout Ranger commander, and 19 other officers for allegedly participating in the aborted coup attempt against President Macapagal-Arroyo last month.

The Army chief, Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, made the recommendation to Gen. Generoso Senga, Armed Forces chief of staff, according to Maj. Bartolome Bacarro, the Army spokesperson.

The Army investigated 59 officers and 37 enlisted personnel in connection with the plan to withdraw support from Ms Arroyo during a rally commemorating the 20th anniversary of the People Power revolution on Feb. 24.

"The 20 officers recommended for general court-martial have varying degrees of participation in the foiled coup. However, the final decision will be up to the chief of staff," Bacarro said yesterday.

He said these officers, including Lim, could be charged with vi-

20 OFFICERS/ A10

Garci: Why blame fake passport on me?

By Michael Lim Ubac
and Philip C. Tubeza

THE MAN AT THE CENTER OF THE PURported fraud that marked the 2004 presidential polls expressed bewilderment yesterday over the finding of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) that a passport he had submitted to the joint House inquiry on the "Hello Garci" scandal was fake.

The BSP prints all Philippine passports for the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Reached yesterday by phone at his farm in Bukidnon, former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano said that before he turned over the passport (No. JJ243816) to the five House committees that conducted the probe, he had been holding it since it was issued in 2002.

"It has always been in my possession … kept at my residence in Barangay Kauswagan, Cagayan de Oro City," he said, pointing out that the passport was issued by the Department of Foreign Affairs satellite office in that city.

Garcillano, 68, claimed that when he submitted his two passports to the joint inquiry, he believed they were "genuine."

He took issue with Cavite Rep. Gilbert

GARCI/ A8

Palace says ad plan won't 'choke' media

By Alcuin Papa
and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY ASsured the public that a new executive order seeking to consolidate the advertising budgets of all government agencies, including the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) and Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor), was not meant to curtail press freedom.

But the National Union of Journalists in the Philippines (NUJP) said Executive Order No. 511 could be used to harass a critical media.

Carlos Conde, an NUJP official, said there was nothing wrong with streamlining government ad budgets, "but if you look at the political context of the past few months it becomes telling."

"We have a government that wants to control the flow of information," he said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo signed EO 511 on March 6, creat-

PALACE/ A10

Lafayette to resume mining; inquiry on

AUSTRALIA'S LAFAYETTE MINING Ltd. has announced it will resume work in the Philippines—halted after a toxic spill—but a local official says the Arroyo administration has given assurance that this will happen only upon the completion of a Church-led inquiry.

Reuters news agency said in a dispatch from Sydney that Lafayette's announcement yesterday drove its stock 18 percent higher in the Australian Stock Exchange.

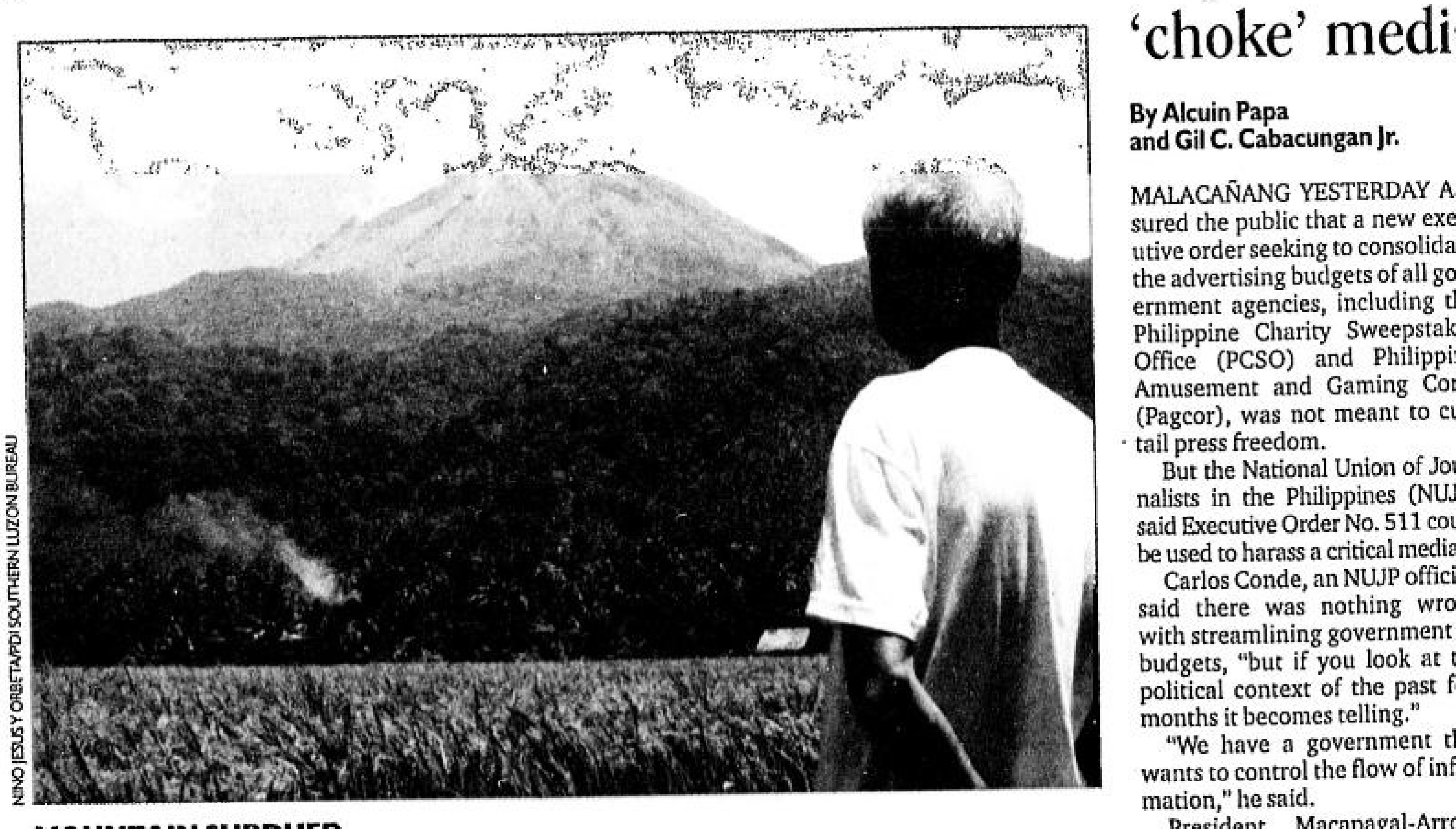
Fr. Leo Dolo of the Social Action Center of the Diocese of Sorsogon said in a phone interview yesterday that Lafayette would not be allowed to resume operations until an independent team convened by Bishop Arturo Bastes had completed its inquiry into the viability and acceptability of the firm's project.

During a visit to Albay in February, the President gave Bastes the go-ahead to form a team of experts that would investigate the Rapu-Rapu Polymetallic Project, once called the flagship of the revived Philippine mining industry. Ms Arroyo herself designated Bastes chair of the probe team.

Lafayette also said its managing director, Andrew McIlwain, had resigned, and that it had secured A$42 million (P1.5 billion) in funding support to underpin its operations in the Philippines via share placements and subordinated debt.

Lafayette Mining, through its subsidiary, Lafayette Philippines Inc., runs the sprawling gold, copper and silver mine on Rapu-Rapu island in Albay.

LAFAYETTE/ A8



NIÑO JESUS Y ORBETA/PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

MOUNTAIN SUBDUED

Only seven volcanic earthquakes were recorded of the Mt. Bulusan activities the past 24 hours . But Phivolcs warns the threat to hazardous explosion remains. *(Story on Page A11.)*

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/03/23/06

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

House OKs P1-trillion budget

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES APPROVED ON SECOND reading at dawn yesterday the P1.05-trillion General Appropriations Act (GAA) of 2006, the biggest-ever national budget which the administration claims will strongly help bail the country out of its economic and political woes.

An ecstatic Speaker Jose de Venecia lauded the feat, saying that despite the political crisis, the 236-member chamber of "all colors and stripes summoned the political will and courage" to approve the proposed budget of the Arroyo administration, which is currently operating on a reenacted budget.

Two years ago, the 2003 budget was rolled over as lawmakers, distracted by campaigning for the 2004 election, failed to pass a new one. Last year's budget was not passed until March.

Passage of the 2006 budget had already been delayed by a presidential order that kept government officials from congressional hearings since a political crisis last year, when President Macapagal-Arroyo survived an impeachment attempt over the allegations.

"With this trillion-pesos budget, we could create significant growth to help strengthen our war on poverty, so that we can lift Filipinos from poverty and start building a modern Filipino middle class," De Venecia said.

'Priority blueprint'

In her budget message to Congress, President Arroyo said the proposed GAA, which will boost spending nearly 15 percent after years of restraint, was her government's "priority blueprint and commitment to ensure sustained socio-economic growth and push reforms."

Albay Rep. Joey Salceda, chair of the House appropriations committee, said congressmen approved the measure "as is, where is as President Arroyo submitted, to the last comma, except for grammatical slips."

"It preserves the trajectory of deficit reduction. Yet it is the first growth-inducing budget with 52 percent increase in capital outlay," said Salceda, the chamber's in-house economist and one of President Arroyo's economic advisers.

If enacted, he added, the budget would help further reduce the gaping budget deficit and spur economic activity through increased government spending for infrastructure, health, education, among others.

He said the budget also "scores on major social policy initiatives" in health with universal health coverage for indigents, in education with P1.8 billion for English textbooks and P2 billion for food for schoolchildren.

"It signals that a gradual return to political normalization is possible. It should put to rest suspicions that a reenacted budget is good for Charter change," said Salceda.

In what is expected to be a formality, the bill will be presented to the lower house for a third and final reading on Tuesday, with just minor refinements likely, said Salceda.

Belligerent Senate

But the long-delayed bill must still clear a belligerent Senate.

Sen. Manuel Villar, chair of the Senate committee on finance, said in a television interview it was likely the budget bill would not be ratified by both houses of Congress until June.

The bill will move to the Senate – where some senators have been accused by the government of supporting efforts to destabilize Arroyo – after the 1,600-page document has been printed, a process that may take more than a week, Villar said.

"Most of our deliberations have been finished and my committee is ready to report," Villar said. "But we really don't have enough time to discuss the budget because I'm sure we will get that on the week before we adjourn for Easter." *With a report from Reuters*

Cardinal Rosales to get Red Hat in Vatican rites

MANILA ARCHBISHOP CARDINAL Gaudencio B. Rosales will receive today the Red Hat (biretta), symbol of his elevation to the College of Cardinals, from Pope Benedict XVI in a consistory to be held at the Vatican in Rome, according to a news release from the Archdiocese of Manila.

Rosales joins 14 others, two of them Asians, who were named cardinals by the Pope in February. The 15 cardinals will help the pontiff guide the world's more than one billion Catholics.

Rosales, 73, only recently succeeded the late, legendary Cardinal Jaime Sin as archbishop of Manila, the largest diocese in Asia. He has spoken out on social issues in the Philippines, saying the recent landslide in the country was due to de-forestation, and called on the government to address the issue.

The cardinals gathered in Rome Wednesday for a day of "prayer and reflection" ahead of the first consistory under Benedict.

Yesterday was designated a day of prayer, a kind of "brainstorming" session to discuss problems facing the Church worldwide, in what observers say is an example of Benedict's stated intention to have greater collegiality, or consultation, within the Church.

CARDINAL ROSALES

The gathering of top clergy will show the two faces of the Roman Catholic Church in quick succession – the secrecy of yesterday's behind-closed-doors meeting contrasting starkly with the colorful public ceremony today in which the new cardinals will receive the trappings of their high office.

Yesterday's gathering, unprecedented in Benedict's short reign, involved all 193 cardinals, including the 15 to be elevated as "Princes of the Church" at today's solemn ceremony.

The 78-year-old German Pope expected the meeting to "speak freely" on the key issues facing the Church, according to French cardinal-elect Albert Vanhoye.

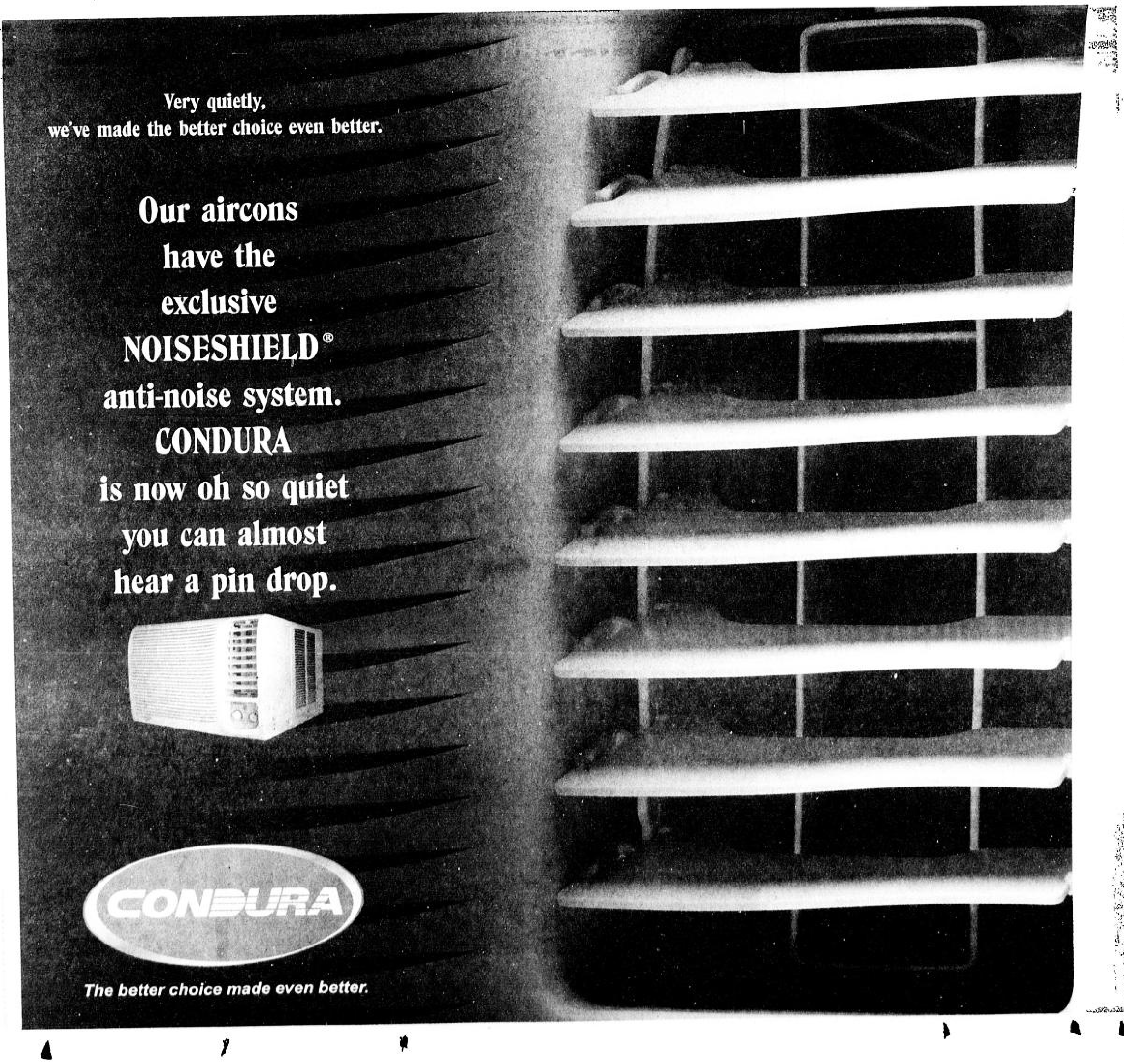
"We will be able to speak about the lack of vocations, relations with civil authorities and other problems," said Vanhoye, a Jesuit.

The pontiff was expected to address the cardinals at the end of the meeting.

During the consistory, each cardinal will be blessed by the Pope and be handed a red zuccetto (skull cap) and a red biretta to wear over it. The blood-red color of the cardinals' vestments and headwear signifies their willingness to die for their faith.

The consistory will be held in front of around 7,000 diplomats, relatives and ordinary pilgrims in the Vatican's Paul VI Hall. Each new cardinal will later be assigned a room at the Vatican in which to greet wellwishers and dipomats.

Rosales will celebrate a thanksgiving Mass with Filipino migrants, priests and religious in Italy on Sunday at the Sta. Maria Maggiore church. He will be back in Manila on March 30. *With a report from AFP*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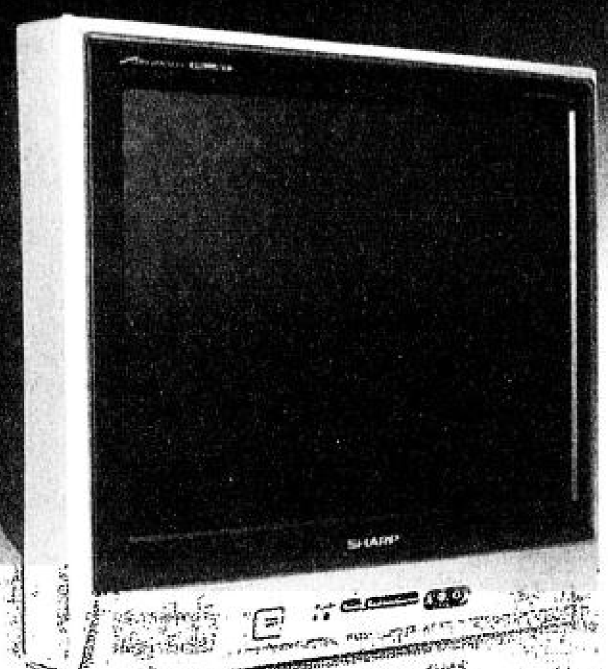

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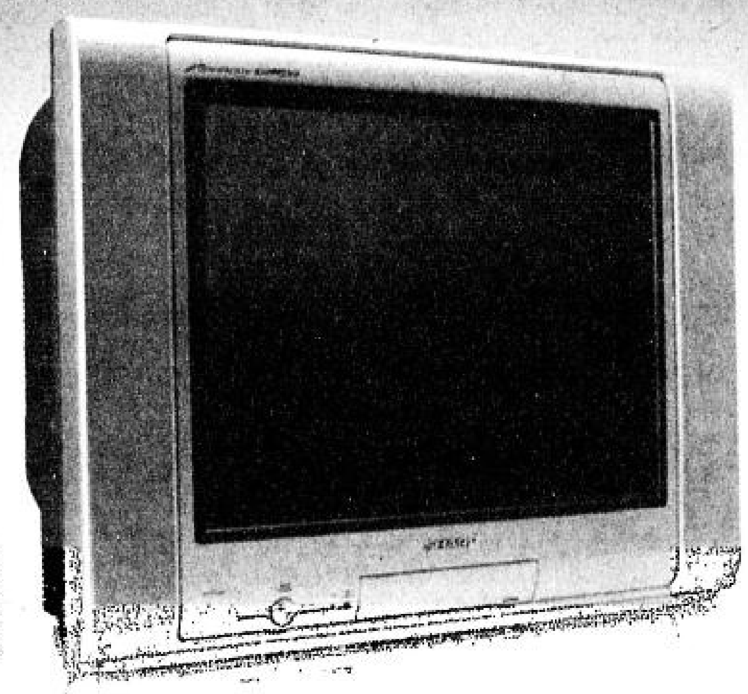

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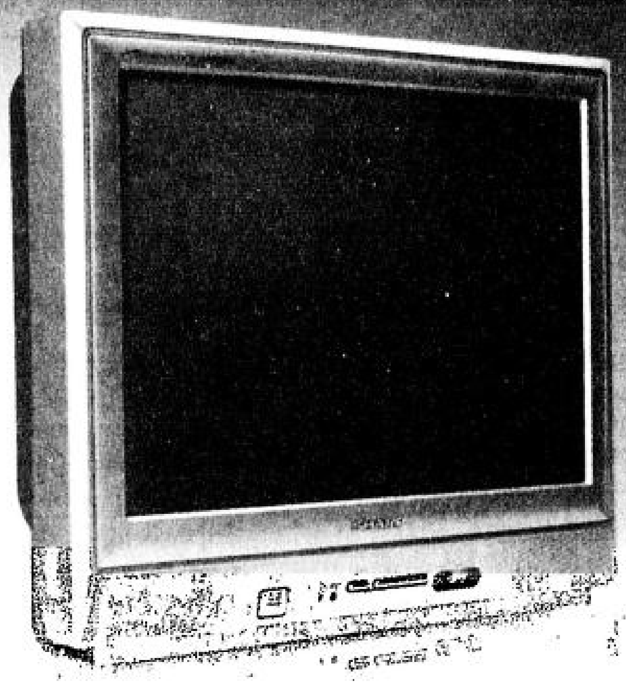

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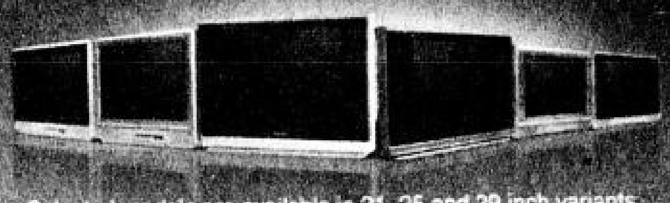

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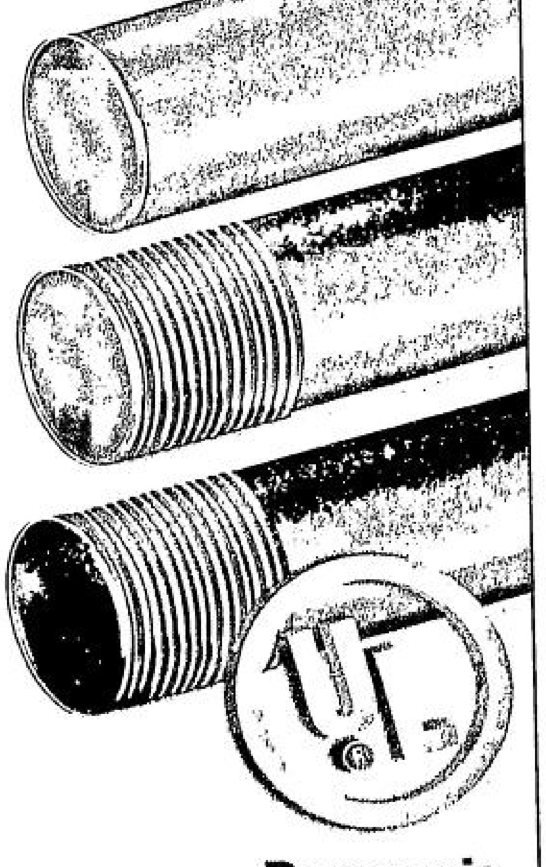

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MERCEDES B. SULEIK - Fellow, Australian Institute of Company Directors. Former Chairman, SEC Accreditation Committee on Corporate Governance.

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Gov't, Moro rebs fail to hammer out deal

DIFFERENCES OVER THE SHARING OF strategic resources has delayed the signing of an informal deal between the Filipino government and Islamic rebels to end nearly 40 years of conflict, a government negotiator said yesterday.

Representatives of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the government ended two days of informal talks on Wednesday without settling issues of territory, governance and resources in the southern Philippines, where the MILF wants a Muslim homeland.

"There was not enough time to wrap up talks on the ancestral domain," said Rodolfo Garcia, a retired general and a member of the government's peace panel.

"There was a lot of haggling. This was expected from a revolutionary group seeking to strike the best deal from government."

Garcia said the two sides would need another round of talks to thresh out specifics of a deal on Muslims' ancestral rights in Mindanao, the country's fruit basket and a largely untapped repository of resources such as gold and copper.

He declined to go into specifics of the bargaining, which took place in neighboring Malaysia.

"We've settled the broader aspect of the agreement, but we're being weighed down by the specific details. We've exchanged our position papers, but there's a lot of back and forth shuffling of the documents," he added.

The talks could resume early in April, when both sides will attempt again to break the deadlock and fix a date for the signing of a deal on ancestral domain, a key part of a process to end a conflict that has killed more than 120,000 people.

"These issues were not insurmountable," said Eid Kabalu, a spokesman for the MILF, the largest of four Muslim separatist rebel groups in the southern Philippines.

"The talks are moving and we're confident that the two sides would reach consensus at some point."

Garcia said the government understood the position of the rebels, who are concerned it will not keep its promises after another Muslim group, the Moro National Liberation Front, accused the government of undermining a separate 1996 peace deal.

The conclusion of informal discussions would pave the way for the first formal talks between the MILF, which broke away from the MNLF in 1984, and the government in three years.

The two sides hope to sign a landmark deal by the start of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan on Sept. 16.

Reuters

Correction

IN THE MARCH 18 ISSUE, a photo caption on the front page stated erroneously that President Macapagal-Arroyo attended the celebration of the 50th sacerdotal anniversary of the Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul in Sorsogon City. The celebration was for the sacerdotal anniversary of Msgr. Augusto Laban—not the cathedral.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Lorna Kalaw Tirol, readers' advocate, e-mail address: readersadvocate@inquirer.com. ph or fax Nos. 897-47-93/94, Attn: Readers Advocate. Her phone number is 897-8808 Local 342.

Wallace is graduation speaker in Pagsanjan

PETER WALLACE, LISTED BY BUSINESSweek as one of the top 20 influential businessmen in Asia, will be the speaker at the Pagsanjan Academy's 78th commencement exercise.

The graduation program is scheduled on April 1 starting at 4:30 p.m. at the school grounds in Pagsanjan, Laguna.

Wallace, an Australian by birth, is president and founder of the Wallace Forum, a Manila-based consulting firm.

A frequent speaker at business conferences and a consultant of various investors wishing to do business in the Philippines, he has also written commentaries and reports on the difficulty of doing business in the country.

The Pagsanjan Academy was founded in 1923 by the late Don Pedro Llamas, a 1908 graduate of the University of Michigan in the United States.

Philippine Launch

GLOBAL PLAN TO STOP TB (2006 - 2015)

March 24, 2006
Philippine International Convention Center
Manila, Philippines

The Philippine Launch of the Global Plan to Stop TB (2006 – 2015) is the Philippines' response to the global call to save 14 million lives in the next 10 years and eliminate TB by 2050.

Through this launch, we bring together more than 70 agencies, organizations, and institutions from the government and the private sector to fully endorse, finance and implement the global plan vis-à-vis the national and regional strategic plans to control TB.

The launch will also be highlighted by the Signing of the Petition for Call to Action by the more than 70 stakeholders attending the event.

*****

Full implementation of the Global Plan to Stop TB (2006 – 2015) will:

- Save approximately 14 million lives;
- Treat about 50 million people, including some 800 000 patients with MDR-TB;
- Expand equitable access to quality TB diagnosis and treatment for all patients;
- Provide anti-retroviral treatment to around 3 million patients who have TB/HIV;
- Introduce, in 2010, the first new TB drug for 40 years and, in 2015, a new short TB regimen of 1 to 2 months;
- By 2010, enable rapid, sensitive and inexpensive detection of active TB with <point of care> diagnostics; and
- By 2015, develop a new, safe, effective and affordable vaccine, which will be available with potential for significant impact on TB control in later years.

The total cost of the Global Plan to Stop TB over its 10-year period is US$ 56 BN (US$ 47 BN for implementation of currently available interventions and US$ 9 BN for research and development. There is a funding gap of about US$ 31 BN.

PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

3:00 PM -	Registration c/o the Secretariat
3:30 PM -	*Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Anthem - * Tayo tayo rin sa 2015*

Launch of the Global Plan to Stop TB (2006 - 2015), Panel Discussion and Symbolic Signing of Commitment

4:00 PM -	Invocation and the Philippine National Anthem - UPCM Choir
4:05 PM -	Opening Remarks Sec. Francisco T. Duque III MD, MSc, Department of Health
4:10 PM -	Global Plan Film
4:15 PM -	Launch of the Global Plan to Stop TB (2006 - 2015) Giorgio Roscigno MD, Executive Committee, Stop TB Partnership
4:25 PM -	Stop TB Partnership Working Groups' Panelists - *Thelma E. Tupasi MD, Chair, Working Group on Drug-resistant TB* *Maria C. Freire PhD, Chair, Working Group on New TB Drugs* *Gijs Elzinga MD, Chair, Working Group on TB/HIV*
4:40 PM -	DOH - National Tuberculosis Control Program's Strategic Plan to Control TB (2006 - 2010) Rosalind G. Vianzon MD, MPH, NTP Manager, DOH
4:45 PM -	WHO Regional Plan to Control TB (2006 - 2010) Pieter Johannes Van Maaren MD, MBA, WHO - WPRO
4:55 PM -	Panel Discussion Chaired by Dr. Giorgio Roscigno and *Assisted by Yolanda Oliveros MD, MPH, DOH*
5:25 PM -	Signing of Petition for Call to Action To be led by Sec. Francisco T. Duque III
6:00 PM -	International Community's Response Michael Voniatis MD, WHO - Philippines
6:05 PM -	Engaging the Private Sector Amelia G. Sarmiento MPH, Philippine Coalition Against Tuberculosis
6:10 PM -	Private Sector Response Ambassador Bienvenido Tan, Philippine Business for Social Progress
6:15 PM -	Engaging the Public Sector Mayor Feliciano Belmonte, Quezon City
6:20 PM -	International Standards for Tuberculosis Care Lee Reichman MD, MPH, New Jersey School of Medicine National TB Center
6:30 PM -	Patients Charter of the Tuberculosis Community Armand D. Esguerra
6:35 PM -	Closing Remarks Jubert P. Benedicto MD, Philippine Coalition Against Tuberculosis

Organized by the

Department of Health
Philippine Coalition Against Tuberculosis
Quezon City Government
Tropical Disease Foundation, Inc.
World Health Organization

Badjaos find new home in Zambales

By Cynthia D. Balana

A RESETTLEMENT VILLAGE FOR HOMEless Badjao families who have been begging and vending in the streets of Metro Manila and Batangas will soon rise in Sta. Cruz, Zambales, Social Welfare and Development Secretary Esperanza Cabral announced yesterday.

Cabral said that at least 50 Badjao families will be the first settlers of the resettlement village. They will be provided with core shelter units and basic services like skills re-tooling and development; capability building that will improve their self-image; health and nutrition; education including functional literacy; and livelihood opportunities.

The establishment of the resettlement village was in response to President Macapagal-Arroyo's directive to provide decent dwellings and other basic services to indigenous peoples, Cabral said.

Now on its social preparation phase as a pilot project, the resettlement village seeks to promote a self-reliant community of Badjao families.

It will be maintained as a social laboratory for the testing of new strategies, programs and projects that will benefit the Badjaos and other indigenous peoples.

"We hope that with basic services already within their reach, they will no longer go to the metropolis to beg," Cabral said.

Commonly called the sea gypsies, the Badjaos are the second largest indigenous people in Sabah. Although the precise origin of the Badjao is unknown, records showed they may have come from Johore, in peninsular Malaysia, long before the two Borneo states became a part of the country.

The Badjao have been a nomadic, seafaring people for most of their history. They chart particularly the waters of the Sulu Sea, off the southwestern coast of the Philippines, and the various seas that surround the Indonesian island of Sulawesi.

Many of them had left their ancestral lands in Zamboanga, Basilan and Sulu archipelago because of piracy in the seas and the worsening economic crisis in the areas, and went to major cities to earn a living through begging.

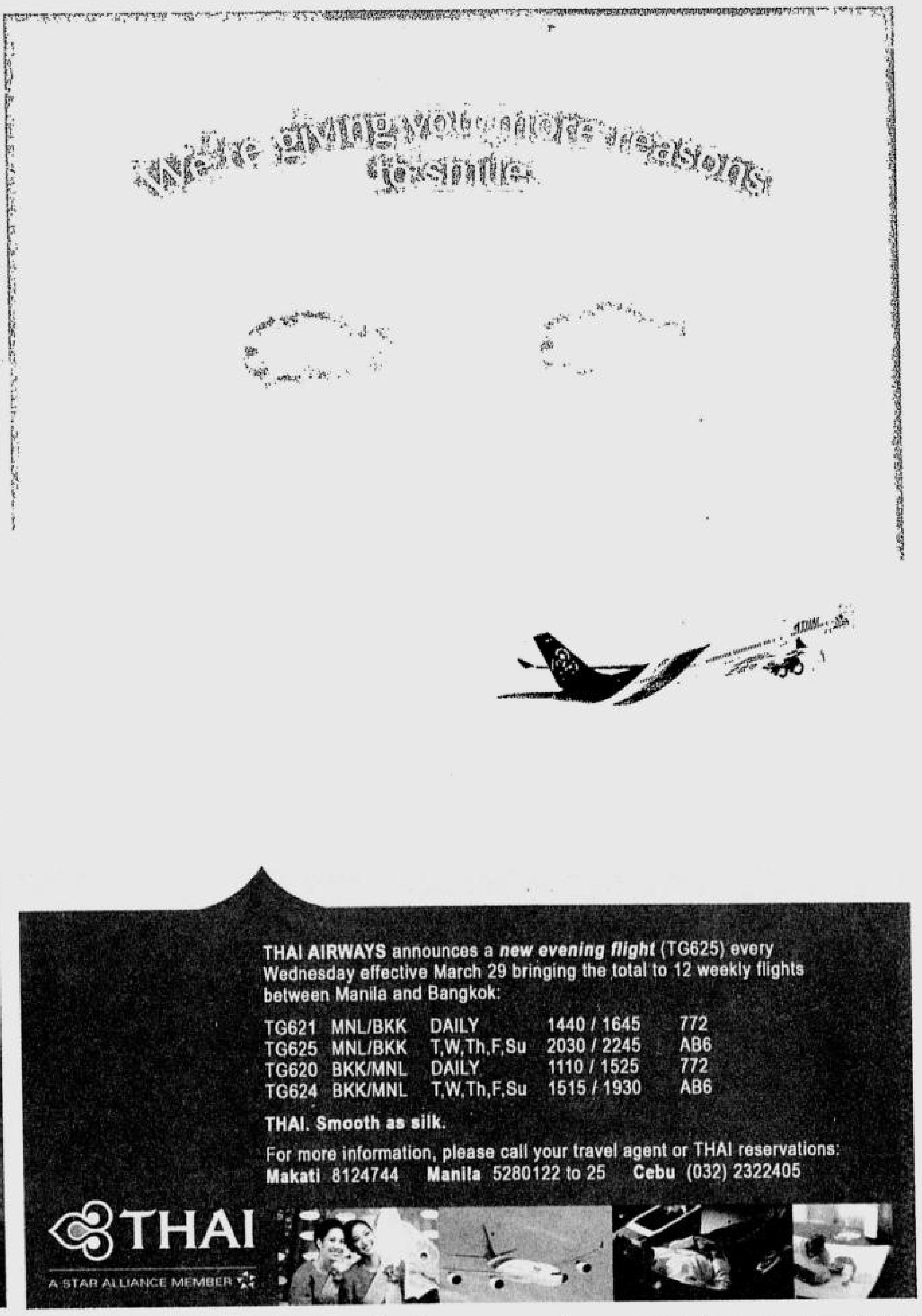
Romblon State College holds alumni fellowship

THE ROMBLON State College Alumni Association (RSCAA) will hold an evening of fellowship, entertainment and fundraising on April 1 at the school quadrangle school in Odiongan, Romblon.

Famed singer Marri Nallos, billed as the Crystal Voice of Asia, will provide entertainment to the event which will also welcome the new graduates of the school from both the college and high school.

Class presidents of different batches from the '50s, and probably earlier, will be asked to pledge contributions to the planned alumni building which will start construction this coming June.

RSC started as a farm school in 1916 formed under the Jones Law. It briefly closed during the Pacific War, but it resumed as a high school carrying an academic curriculum. It is now a state college, after becoming an agricultural high school in the midfifties, with prospect of becoming the first university in the province.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No due process, PNP says of CHR report

By Luige A. del Puerto

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POlice decried the Commission on Human Rights report recommending criminal investigation of a PNP assault team for the alleged summary execution of Abu Sayyaf suspects during the Bicutan jail siege last year.

It said the CHR did not give the PNP a chance to present its side of the police assault on the Manila District Jail at Camp Bagong Diwa in Bicutan on March 15, 2005, that resulted in the death of 23 people, including three top leaders of the Abu Sayyaf bandit group.

PNP Chief Director General Arturo Lomibao said he was "saddened" by the CHR's release of its report on the Bicutan hostage crisis "without giving us the chance to present our side and sans the basic courtesy of furnishing first the PNP with a copy of its report."

"It could have been standard policy, especially in government, to furnish those concerned with the result of the investigation before it's released out to the public," said Senior Supt. Samuel Pagdilao, the PNP spokesperson.

The PNP also objected to the timing of the report's release when the police organization is under fire for its strong-arm tactics during the recent state of national emergency, such as raiding a newspaper and making warrantless arrests.

Lomibao sought to remind the public that the Bicutan crisis claimed the lives of three jail guards and one police officer.

"It is unfortunate that because of the CHR report, the supreme sacrifice paid by the slain cop and guards, who gallantly fought and died to save the lives of the hostages, may be put at great risk of going to waste while putting in doubt the legitimacy of the operation," Lomibao said in a statement.

According to Pagdilao, the commission will have to prove its case.

"They are the ones who are recommending a charge for murder or multiple murder against the PNP... The burden of proving at least the existence of a probable cause would have to be on their part," he said.

In its report released last Thursday, the CHR said the Department of Justice should determine the liability of police officers and their superiors, including former Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes who headed a crisis management committee that gave the order to assault the prison.

The commission found that 22 suspected members of the Abu Sayyaf were killed when a crack PNP Special Action Force assaulted the prison after a 27-hour standoff following an attempted jailbreak by a group of Abu Sayyaf inmates.

Among those killed were three Abu Sayyaf leaders – Alhamzer Manatad Limbong, alias Kosovo, Ghalib Andang, alias Commander Robot, and Nadzmie Sabtulah, alias Commander Global. All three had been accused of involvement in mass kidnappings and terror acts.

CHR commissioner Wilhelm Soriano said the commission's investigation, including interviews with inmates and guards, indicated only Limbong and six others had been involved in the planned escape. The two other Abu Sayyaf leaders – Andang, who had lost a leg in a gun battle with soldiers, and Sabtulah – were not involved, Soriano said.

The commission acknowledged that the police action against Limbong and his group was justified because they refused to surrender.

It said, however, that officers fired indiscriminately at the jail cells, killing at least three inmates in one.

Pagdilao defended the assault, saying the police used "reasonable force to defuse the tension."

"The Abu Sayyaf inmates there were highly dangerous criminals involved in terrorist attacks, and we know these guys are suicidal [sic]," he said.

Yet the police did not immediately employ the "final option" and even allowed negotiations to push through, the PNP spokesperson said.

"*Palaban na sila* (They were geared for a fight)," he said. "They had killed people and they know that there was nothing more for them to do except fight it out with the PNP."

Lomibao said he was confident that the police would eventually be vindicated.

"This notwithstanding, our respect for the CHR and its findings are not diminished. We welcome this as a chance for the CHR to prove its case and establish probable cause before the Department of Justice," he said.

Chavit says Erap failed as witness

By Norman Bordadora

FROM THE WAY HE IS GOING about defending himself, deposed President Joseph Estrada is bound to be convicted, according to Estrada's estranged buddy, Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis 'Chavit' Singson, who judged the jailed ex-president's much-awaited testimony in his plunder trial a miserable failure.

"His testimony is all denial," said Singson, noting that Estrada failed to take the legal upper hand when he took the witness stand last Wednesday.

"We have a paper trail," said Singson, the government's star witness in the Estrada trial.

He noted that his testimony that P130 billion in tobacco excise taxes went as kickbacks to Estrada was supported by documents covering the transfer of the funds from the Land Bank of the Philippines branch in Vigan to the Shaw Blvd. branch.

Singson had testified that the the funds had been withdrawn from the Landbank Shaw branch and allegedly given to Estrada in 2000.

In his defense on Wednesday, Estrada said he could not have stolen the money intended for tobacco farmers.

Prosecution awaits

Singson said Estrada was lying and that the truth was bound to come out when the prosecution gets to question him on cross-examination.

Aside from the paper trail on the excise tax kickbacks, Singson said Estrada's strictness about keeping records of the alleged jueteng pay-offs to him proved to be his undoing as an accountant's ledger became one of the prosecution's key pieces of evidence.

"He wanted everything to be taken down, that's why we have a ledger. He didn't know it would be used against him," Singson said.

As to Estrada's claim that they were never bosom friends, Singson said: "How come he stood as principal sponsor at my son's wedding? How come I am godfather to his son by Laarni [Enriquez]?"

On allegations that he sucked up to Estrada when the latter became President, Singson said: "I wouldn't do that. I was already governor when he was still just a mayor."

Singson said the statements of Sen. Panfilo Lacson, Estrada's national police chief and most trusted lieutenant, that the ousted leader knew that millions of pesos in jueteng money were flowing into his Muslim Youth Foundation was damaging to his credibility.

"How can [Estrada] say that he doesn't know anything about jueteng...It was not really a foundation [for Muslim youth]. *Muslim-musliman lang 'yon* [It was just a cover]," Singson told a press conference.

Singson also said that Lacson, the then Philippine National Police chief, allegedly wanted to corner the illegal gambling payoffs for the PNP because he wanted to run for President.

All out vs jueteng

"Lacson wanted five percent of the nationwide collection for jueteng and wanted to be the one to distribute to the provincial commanders. According to him, the provincial commanders were becoming too beholden to the (jueteng) maintainers," Singson said.

Lacson yesterday dismissed Singson's allegations as "baseless." He said that Singson's claim that he wanted a five percent share of jueteng collections did not make sense as he had "consistently" rejected jueteng bribe money from the time he was a provincial police director.

He said he also sacked police commanders who refused to obey his order to crack down on jueteng.

"Even high-ranking PNP officers who were very close to me at the time [but] who failed to go all-out against jueteng operations were punished," he said.

Lacson also said that the thought of running for public office "never occurred" to him "at that time."

With reports from Philip C. Tubeza and Nelson F. Flores

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, March 24, 2006
3rd Week of Lent

1st Reading: Hos 14:2-10
Gospel: Mark 12:28-34

A teacher of the Law had been listening to this discussion and admired how Jesus answered them. So he came up and asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?"

Jesus answered, "The first is: Hear, Israel! The Lord, our God, is One Lord; and you shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. And after this comes another one: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these two."

The teacher of the Law said to him, "Well spoken, Master; you are right when you say that he is one and there is no other. To love him with all our heart, with all our understanding and with all our strength, and to love our neighbor as ourselves is more important than any burnt offering or sacrifice."

Jesus approved this answer and said, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." But after that, no one dared to ask him any more questions.

Commentary

God is forever pleading with us to come back, come home from our defections to other countries, powers and people. God is all mercy waiting on us and He wants to love us freely! We are promised freshness, blessings, fruit, understanding, if only we'd walk with God... but we stumble and tread other paths.

Jesus is blunt with one of the Scribes. You know the law: LOVE God with everything—heart, soul, mind and strength (meaning resources) and love your neighbor the same way. The Scribe praises Jesus but Jesus tells him that he is close to the kingdom, but not there yet. The law opens the latch, but you must walk the way of Jesus, obeying the law in regard to all, including enemy and foe.

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GMA vows to spend more on education

By Christine O. Avendaño

SAYING THAT HER GOVERNMENT COULD now afford to spend money for education, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday vowed to produce not only more good readers among the country's grade school children by the time her term ends in 2010 but also world-class Filipino workers.

At the launch of the "Bright Minds Read" fund-raising program spearheaded by McDonalds Charities at Malacañang, Ms Arroyo underscored the need for the government to spend more on basic education.

"Indeed if we want to make sure that we continue with a good, world-class Filipino worker, well-educated and skilled, we have to spend on basic education," she said.

Thanking McDonald Charities and its partners in promoting reading and literacy among schoolchildren through the Bright Minds Read program since 2002, the President disclosed that she had ordered Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya to release P500 million for the purchase of textbooks and instructional materials for public schools this year.

On top of this, she said the government aims to close the classroom gap by 2010 by building 6,000 grade school classrooms every year, adopting double-shift classes, distributing high school vouchers to provide assistance to private high school students, providing scholarships to poor college and vocational students and providing every high school with computers.

She claimed the government has built more than 14,000 classrooms since her new term began in June 2004.

"We are enabled by a strong peso, by strong investments, including Mcdonalds', by mild inflation, by a budget deficit way below ceiling," Ms Arroyo said.

She marvelled at the way the reading program was now being implemented in up to 37,200 public schools nationwide, compared to the 14 schools the project covered when it started in 2002 after a study showed that four out of 10 first-graders could not read.

DILAG

Judge opts out of Subic rape case

THE JUDGE HANDLING THE SUBIC RAPE case on Thursday announced he was inhibiting himself from the case and confirmed the delay in the arraignment of four US Marines set for today.

Judge Renato Dilag said he decided to be out of the case after the private lawyers of the 22-year-old complainant, a Filipina from Zamboanga City, filed a motion for his inhibition.

The motion alleged that the judge's son, lawyer Raymond Anthony Dilag, was an associate of the Rodrigo Berenguer & Guno law offices, which is defending one of the four accused, Staff Sgt. Chad Brian Carpentier.

Dilag said his son resigned from the firm in August 2004.

Explaining his decision that came less than 20 minutes after the motion was filed at 4 p.m., the judge said: "I would like to dispel any doubt regarding my future action on this case."

"I want the cold neutrality of the court to rule," he said.

His inhibition from the case, he said, would require Executive Judge Avelino Lazo to re-raffle the case to the two other remaining judges in Olongapo City.

The woman's lawyers filed the motion after Dilag on Wednesday junked the omnibus motion asking him to declare as unconstitutional the Visiting Forces Agreement, defer the arraignment until the issues of custody and jurisdiction were settled, and issue a new arrest warrant against Smith and Lance Corporals Daniel Smith, Keith Silkwood and Dominic Duplantis, the accused in the case.

The 22-year-old woman has accused the four Marines of raping her last November, just after joint US-Philippine military exercises in the nearby former US naval base of Subic.

Dilag stressed that he was not being intimidated into pulling out, saying "I did not feel any pressure coming from anybody."

The Marines have insisted only one of them had sex with the woman and that the act was consensual.

The men are in the custody of the US Embassy. It has refused to hand them over to local authorities, citing a provision in a Visiting Forces Agreement that allows them to keep soldiers in their custody during legal proceedings.

The alleged rape has triggered anti-American street protests in the country and leftist groups have been using it as an issue to attack the government's ties with its principal security ally. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk, with a report from AFP*

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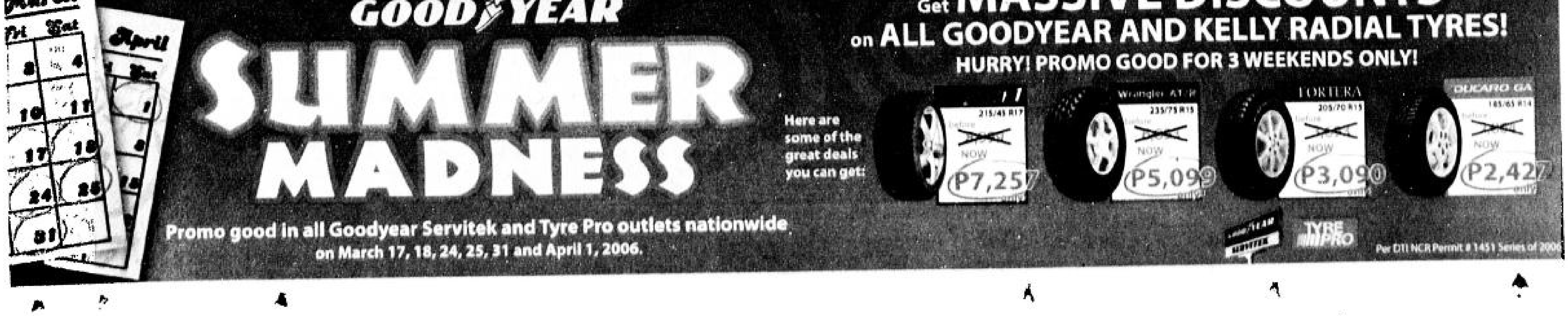
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Lafayette to resume mining; inquiry still on

From page A1

Shares of the mining firm, which traded as high as 26 cents in the last 12 months, were up 13.6 percent at 12.5 cents, down slightly from an earlier peak of 13 cents.

The Philippine government suspended operations at the mine in January and fined the company almost P11 million after two cyanide spills that angered villagers and killed fish. *(See related story in Across the Nation, Page A18.)*

Lafayette said it had undertaken technical remedial work at the mine imposed by the government before being allowed to restart.

"Commissioning activities will be progressed, culminating in base metal production anticipated in mid-April," Lafayette said in a statement to the Australian Stock Exchange.

To avoid more pollution, Lafayette raised the mining plant's dam wall and widened its base and expanded the waste tailings receiving pond.

Gov't commitment

Dolo said that Bastes received a commitment on this from Environment Secretary Angelo T. Reyes during President Macapagal-Arroyo's two-hour closed-door meeting with anti-mining bishops at the Traders Hotel in Manila on March 10.

"He (Reyes) assured Bishop Bastes. What will be the point of the investigation if Lafayette is already allowed to resume operations?" said Dolo.

Reyes has been quoted in earlier reports as saying that he and the Sorsogon bishop had an "agreement" to wait for the results of the investigation before deciding on whether to lift the suspension order against Lafayette. He said Bastes had asked for a month to complete the inquiry, which would also look into the legality of the project.

The team has completed consultations with communities in Legazpi City, Sorsogon and Rapu-Rapu, Dolo said.

Still many hurdles

Environment Undersecretary Demetrio Ignacio yesterday said there were still "many hurdles" to the resumption of the gold processing operation.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has cancelled the wastewater discharge permit issued to Lafayette, which means the firm could not use its tailings pond until its permit is restored.

Lafayette submitted its comprehensive pollution control program Wednesday, detailing its compliance with the government's requirements.

During the 1970s and 1980s, the Philippines was one of the world's biggest mining centers, but two decades of neglect, environmental mishaps and clashes over land rights have stunted its potential.

1st developed after 4 decades

The Rapu-Rapu mine was the first to be developed by foreigners in nearly four decades.

Lafayette late last year said the discharges of cyanide, used to segregate gold from ore, into local water systems had only "minimal environmental effects."

The most recent spill, last Nov. 1, was caused by heavy rains at the mine site and followed an earlier larger spill last Oct. 11.

Before the suspension, the mine was forecast to yield predominately copper and zinc, though it will also account for 50,000 ounces of gold and half a million ounces of silver each year as a by-product from the base metals ore.

South Korea's LG Co. International Ltd. and its government's resources investment arm, Kores, together hold 26 percent of Lafayette's Philippine subsidiary.

At full production rates, the mine has been forecast to yield enough concentrate—ground ore—each year to enable partner LG International to glean 10,000 tons of copper and 14,000 tons of zinc from the material through the smelting process. *With reports from Blanche S. Rivera and Cyril L. Bonabente, PDI Research, Reuters*

Garci: Why blame fake passport on me?

From page A1

Remulla, former lead chair of the probe, who had said that the BSP findings "strongly indicate a conspiracy to cover up" the alleged election fraud.

"What conspiracy?" Garcillano said. "What does the passport have to do with cheating? Even if I traveled outside the country, which I don't accept, can it prove cheating? I said it once and say it again: I don't accept doing any actions to help [President Macapagal-Arroyo] cheat."

Garcillano assailed the opposition for supposedly forgetting that the purpose of the House inquiry was "to find out if there was cheating" based on wiretapped conversations between him and Ms Arroyo.

"My passport was in the committees' possession for more than three months now. Suddenly, they will say it [is fake]," he said.

"How could I have tampered [with] that? I have nothing to do with it because I did not issue the passport to myself. I don't even know how a passport is made," he added.

Garcillano said he did not want to impute malice on the part of DFA officials.

"They have been doing their job quite well. I'm not charging the DFA with anything. But I don't know how it came about. If it's fake, which I don't accept, why would they blame it on me? I myself am surprised," he said.

Quoting the BSP findings, the chairs of the five House committees that looked into the "Hello Garci" scandal said Wednesday that Garcillano's passport No. JJ243816 "[did] not conform to standard" on six counts, but that his previous passport (No. BB602533) did.

In the country

Both passports had no entry, indicating that Garcillano did not leave the country during their validity, contrary to a Singapore government report that he stopped in the city-state in July en route to a third country.

Garcillano questioned the way the examination was conducted by four officials of the BSP Bank Notes and Securities Printing Department.

"I'm not sure whether a representative of the joint inquiry was present when the examination was made. Definitely, I did not send my counsel to at least witness the examination," he said.

Garcillano maintained that he did not leave the country at the height of the wiretapping scandal that nearly toppled the Arroyo administration last year.

He claimed not to have left the country since January 1994, when he arrived from the United States.

"I have always been here in the country … with my wife," he said, pointing out that he was actually in Central Luzon on July 14, 2005, the day he supposedly flew to Singapore.

Palace: No hand in it

Garcillano reiterated his earlier contention that he had been reluctant at first to face the House inquiry out of fear for his life.

"I have doubts about the intentions of the administration … and the opposition, too," he said.

Malacañang had no hand in the manufacture of Garcillano's fake passport, according to Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita.

"First of all, the Office of the President has nothing to do with it," Ermita told reporters.

He also pointed out that Garcillano had resigned from the Commission on Elections, "so I don't think there is a way we can make any kind of statement of circumstances about [the man]."

Michael Defensor, the President's chief of staff, asked that Malacañang not be dragged into the issue: "*Sana huwag na nating idamay ang Palasyo dito sa pekeng* passport *ni* Garcillano *dahil wala tayong kinalaman dito* (Let us not drag the Palace in the fake Garcillano passport issue because we do not have anything to do with it)."

"I think Mr. Garcillano must explain his side of the matter, and let us not make any judgments if we do not have any evidence," Defensor also said.

Asked if there was a need to let the DFA and the BSP explain what really happened, Defensor answered in the negative.

He said the Palace could only support the bid of the House joint inquiry to investigate the matter and to determine whether it should charge Garcillano with perjury.

"I think Mr. Garcillano can defend himself," Defensor said.

Falsification

Opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson said his lawyers would charge Garcillano with falsification of public documents in an effort to make him identify the people who "fixed" his passport.

Lacson said he had received information that four fixers had produced the passport to make it appear that Garcillano did not leave the Philippines at the height of the "Hello Garci" controversy.

He said he would ask the Senate to summon Garcillano, adding that his office was also trying to reach the fixers to find out if any of them wanted to disclose information.

"My lawyers are now getting together to collate all documents and prepare the criminal complaint against Garcillano. Any taxpayer in this country can file a complaint against him," Lacson said, adding:

"It is an open-and-shut case against Garcillano [for] falsification of public documents. I want this case filed so that he would identify his contacts in the BSP. I want him to point them out."

Lacson said the case could be filed today in the court in Pasay City, where the BSP is located.

He said Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, chair of the Senate committee on national defense and security that is looking into the "Hello Garci" tapes, also wanted to summon the BSP personnel who examined the passport before calling in Garcillano.

"The House has already closed its investigation, but in the Senate, we can issue an invitation and then subsequently a subpoena to Garcillano," Lacson said.

"And if he appears and does not tell the truth, our rules say that we can compel him to tell the truth under pain of being cited for contempt."

Latest info

Lacson said the latest information he got was that Garcillano had returned to his farm in Bukidnon.

"He was here [in Manila] a day or two last week. Our information is that he went to Malacañang for a meeting with you-know-who last week He only stayed for a short time here. He went [to Malacañang] with [lawyer] Roque Bello," the senator said.

Lacson warned that Garcillano might again go into hiding.

"It seems that is going to be the pattern. But it is going to be obvious for Malacañang if Garcillano again goes abroad this time. They're saying that this is a closed book, [but] we don't agree. Information and evidence keep coming out, so that the 'Hello Garci' [investigation] will continue," he said.

Lacson said he had a source "embedded in Garcillano's camp," and it was this person who informed him that Senior Supt. Asher Dolina, head of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in Metro Manila, was supposedly involved in the manufacture of the passport.

Commends BSP deputy gov

Lacson said that while he had verified that the fixers had a contact in the Bureau of Immigration, he still wanted to smoke out their contacts in the BSP.

He said BSP Deputy Governor Armando Suratos should be commended for immediately submitting the BSP findings to the House inquiry.

"We [looked at] the examination [report] and transmittal and both were dated March 20, 2006. This means Deputy Governor Suratos did not delay in transmitting the findings to Congress," Lacson said, adding:

"If this had been delayed by one more day, Malacañang would have gotten wind of the information that there was such a certification. He might have had a problem and could have been pressured.

"From what we gathered, Deputy Governor Suratos is a straight guy."

Genuine articles

Acting Foreign Secretary Franklin Ebdalin stressed yesterday that the DFA issued "genuine passports," including the one it issued to Garcillano four years ago.

"As to what happens after [a passport is issued], we don't know. We haven't seen [Garcillano's] passport," Ebdalin said at a press conference originally intended to discuss the Asean Eminent Persons Group.

He added: "We issued one legitimate passport to Mr. Garcillano in 2002 and it is still a valid passport."

After the press conference, DFA spokesperson Gilberto Asuque said there were now two passports with No. JJ243816, with the BSP finding that the passport Garcillano submitted to the joint House inquiry was fake.

Asuque said Garcillano's passport would only be cancelled if it was surrendered to the DFA regional office in Cagayan de Oro.

Garci liable

"To cancel it, we have to break the seal. The passport we issued him remains valid until February 2007," Asuque said.

He said that under the Philippine Passport Law, passports could be cancelled if the person were convicted of a crime, a fugitive, and had falsified his or her passport.

Asuque said that with the BSP finding, Garcillano was now liable "for falsifying, counterfeiting a passport."

Those who produced the fake passport and gave it to him were also liable, Asuque said, adding that violators faced a P60,000-P150,000 fine and imprisonment of six years at least or 15 years at most.

But Garcillano said: "How can they charge me with falsification? Did I falsify anything in the passport?" *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño and Nikko Dizon*

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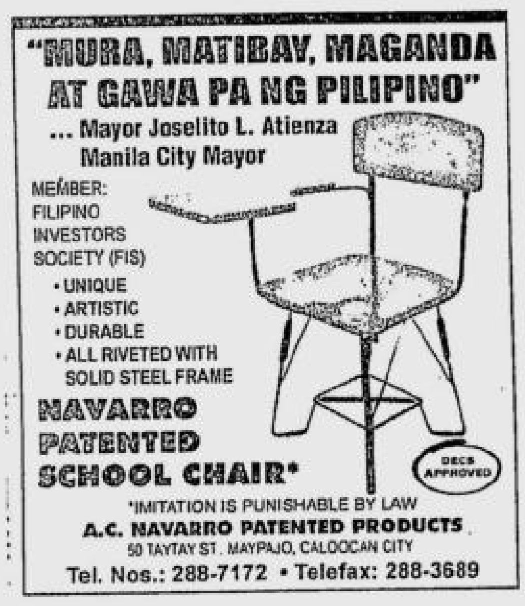

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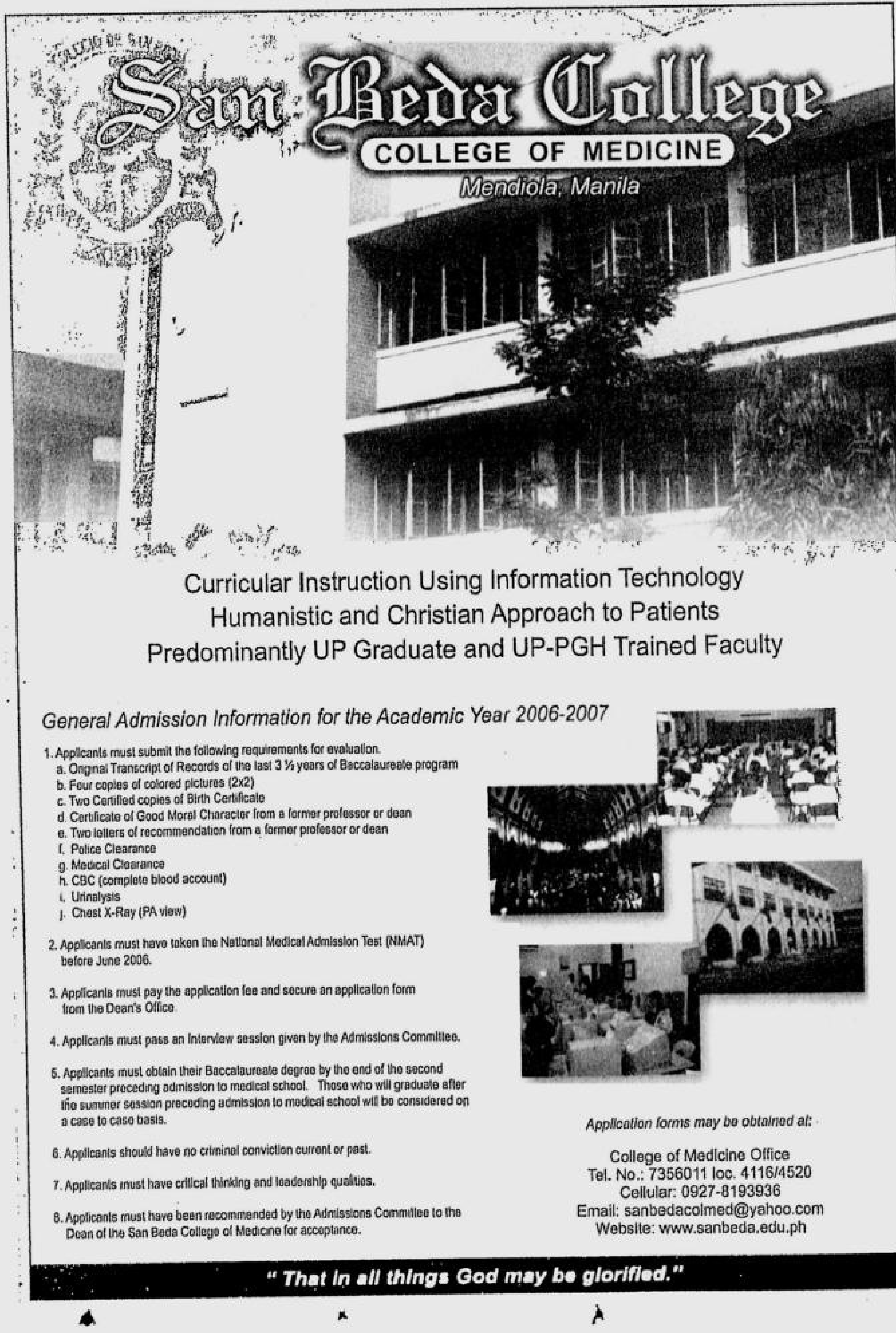

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"That in all things God may be glorified."

Online 'hacktivists' launch …

From page A1

Protesting alleged human rights abuses, protesters calling themselves "Electronic Brigade" opened a website that directs visitors to the main national police site.

"You are about to take part in an online direct action protest. Please confirm that you are willingly taking part in this action by clicking OK or exit without taking part by clicking Cancel," the message said.

The activists, who are not identified, said their brand of "hacktivism" was legal because it involved visiting a website only.

Police did not comment immediately, and it wasn't clear how many hits their website recorded.

The activists' website opens with a cartoon of the "Electronic Brigade" members dressed as super heroes, wearing masks and caps.

A blurb accuses police of rampant human rights violations, including allegedly torturing 11 teenagers it said were wrongfully accused of being communist guerrillas. *(See story in Across the Nation, Page A19.)*

The 11 young people were arrested last month while on their way to the northern tourist town of Sagada, Mt. Province. Their lawyer, Pablito Sanidad, on Thursday asked a court in Benguet to free them from the provincial jail, saying they were arrested without warrants or probable cause.

Senior Supt. Villamor Bumanlag, the police chief of Benguet, earlier said the 11 youths were identified by government militiamen as communist guerrillas and denied they were tortured. *AP*

This customs guard is a multi-millionaire

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE charged before the Office of the Ombudsman yesterday a security guard from the Bureau of Customs for failing the lifestyle check, saying he has accumulated millions of pesos in assets despite his measly salary.

The Revenue Integrity Protection Services (RIPS), the unit of the DOF tasked with conducting lifestyle checks, said Raul "Along" Enriquez owns several pieces of real estate, including a two-story house in Pasig City.

Enriquez's salary as a security guard at the Naia Customs is only at P100,500 a year, or a P8,375 a month.

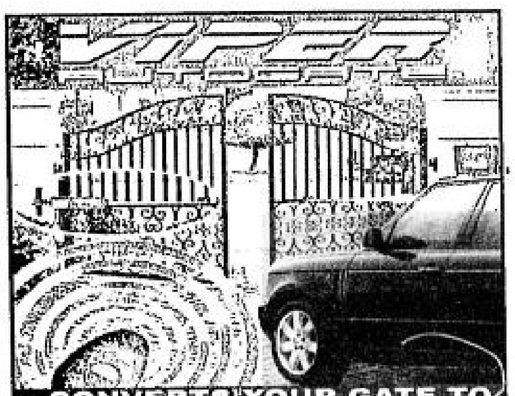
RIPS said its investigation team found out that Enriquez owns, aside from the house, a 216-square-meter parcel of land, another 379-square-meter land in Maybunga, Pasig City, and a residential house and lot in San Nichols, Pasig City. He also owns a 2005 model Ford Escape and a 2000 model Toyota Corolla. RIPS alleged.

The house, which RIPS said Enriquez bought in cash, was estimated to have a market value of P1.4 million. The 2005 model of Ford Escape costs around P1.4 million, while the 216-square-meter land is estimated to be at least P2 million.

RIPS failed to have an estimate of the cost of the 379-square-meter property and the residential house and lot, but said their costs run in the multimillion pesos.

Ex-solon's father dies

RICARDO PAULINO Cabochan of San Miguel, Bulacan, died on Wednesday. He is the father of former Bulacan Congressman Jose "Boji" Cabochan. His remains lie in state at the Mt. Carmel Church, New Manila, Quezon City. Cremation will be held after the 2:30 p.m. Mass at Mount Carmel Church on Sunday.



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- PROJECT MANAGEMENT
  March 25 - April 8, 2006 Saturday 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM
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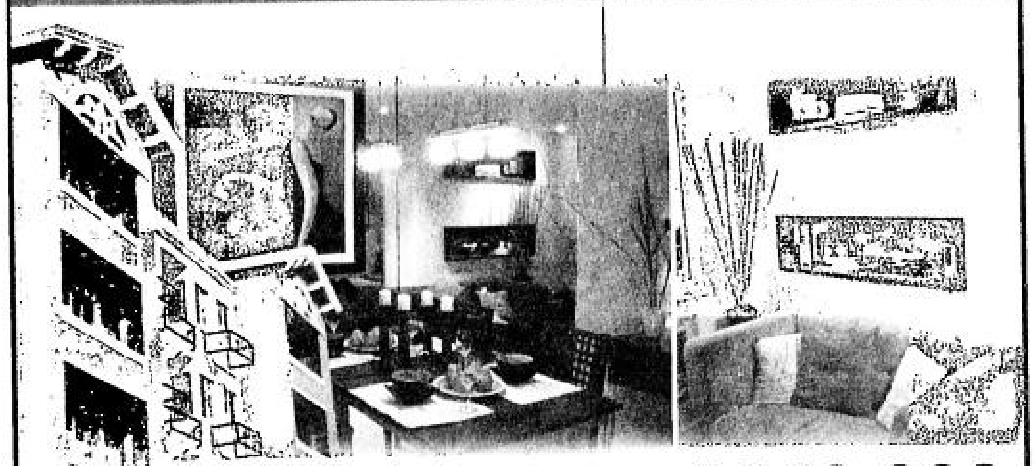

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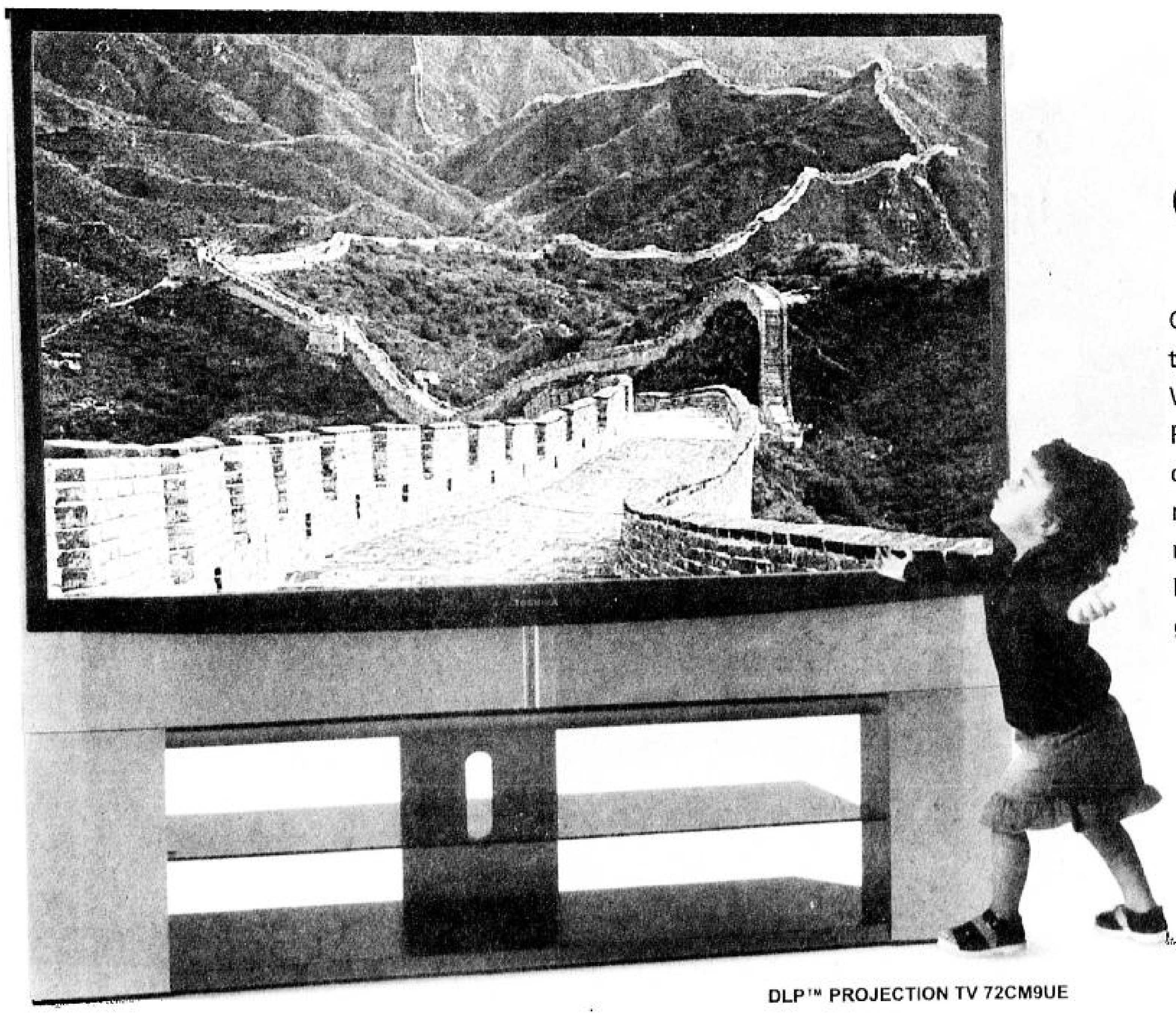

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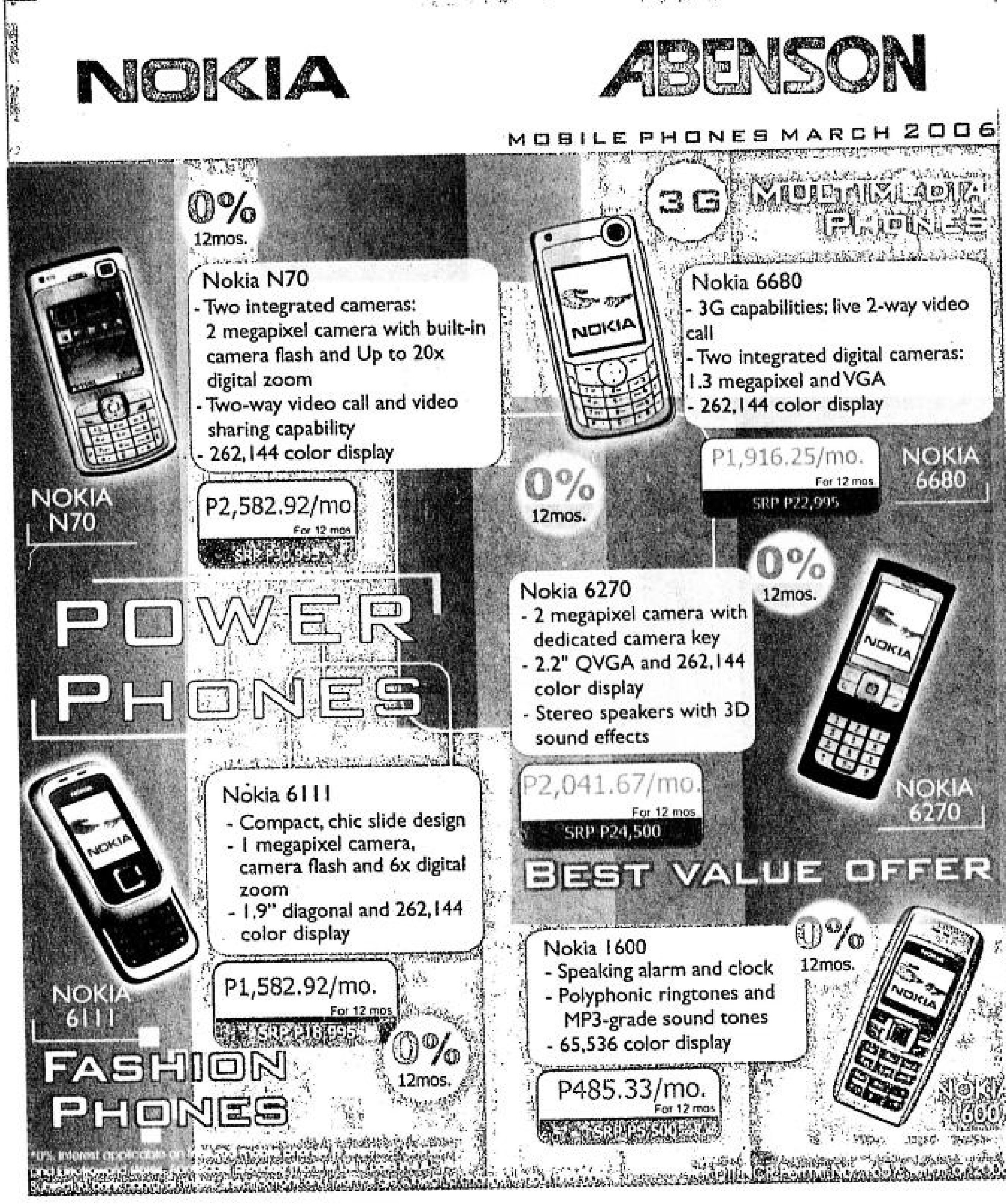

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20 officers recommended for court-martial–Esperon

From page A1

olation of three Articles of War—mutiny, failure to suppress a mutiny and conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline.

Lim has denied the accusations. He has been relieved of his command of the elite First Scout Ranger Regiment and has been restricted to quarters since Feb. 24. This was after he and Marine Col. Ariel Querubin reportedly disclosed to Senga their plan to join anti-Arroyo rallies on Edsa and announce a withdrawal of support from the President.

That same day, Ms Arroyo, who has been hounded by allegations she stole the 2004 presidential election, declared a state national of emergency.

The 58-year-old President lifted her emergency decree a week later, saying she had quelled an attempt to unseat her by an alliance of communist guerrillas, rogue soldiers, opposition politicians and businessmen.

Lim, 50, a graduate of the US Military Academy at West Point, has been linked to previous coup attempts. In December 1989, Lim, then a captain, led rebel soldiers in taking over the Makati financial district in the bloodiest coup attempt against ex-President Corazon Aquino.

Still, Lim's stock steadily grew. He received his star rank in April 2005, becoming one of the youngest officers to become a general.

Other officers probed

A number of Scout Ranger officers have either been detained or restricted to quarters while investigations are continuing on the coup attempt. They include Col. Nestor Flordeliza, Maj. Jason Aquino and Capt. Ruben Guinolbay.

Guinolbay was awarded the Gold Cross, the military's third highest combat award, for his exploits in the siege of Basilan against Abu Sayyaf insurgents in June 2001.

Querubin has not been restricted to quarters or investigated for the Feb. 24 plot.

He and other Marine officers are instead being investigated for the Feb. 26 standoff at their Fort Bonifacio headquarters. This was prompted by the sudden relief of Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda as Marine commandant.

Bacarro said the rest of the 39 officers and 37 enlisted personnel could face administrative or criminal charges at the Army level. Administrative charges are tried before the Efficiency and Separation Board [ESB].

Other cases

"The rest of the officers and soldiers will be handled by the Army. They will be charged, but I can't say for now what the charges will be," Bacarro said.

On Saturday, Esperon announced that he had submitted his recommendation to Senga that Lim and several other officers be charged in a court-martial. Sources said 15 officers would be charged.

But during the 109th anniversary of the Philippine Army on Monday, Esperon said he had withheld submitting his recommendation due to additional information.

No deadline was set for Senga to act on the Army's recommendation.

Senga has so far not acted on the guilty verdict handed down by a court-martial on former chief comptroller, retired Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, in December last year.

Also pending action is a report submitted in January by a fact-finding board led by Navy chief Vice Adm. Mateo Mayuga on the "Hello Garci" election fraud scandal that implicated a number of top military officials.

Execuive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said that Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz would submit the Mayuga report to President Arroyo today

Palace says ad plan won't 'choke' media

From page A1

ing a Communication Group under the Office of the President.

The group will "guide, integrate and supervise the public information activities, including advertisements, of all departments, bureaus, offices and agencies in the executive branch of government, including government financial institutions (GFIs) and government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs)," the order said.

The Communication Group will be headed by Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, with government media head Cerge Remonde and Philippine Information Agency Director General Conrado Limcaoco as members.

Bunye said Malacañang only wanted to "consolidate government information efforts to improve the public reach and penetration of key socioeconomic programs."

"Government advertising must be propelled by public interest and we should not mix it up with issues of press freedom. To impute suppression of press freedom relative to this effort is far out in the left field," Bunye said in a statement.

Big spenders

He said the sole purpose of the order was to organize and rationalize the public information programs of various government agencies in the executive branch, "no more, no less."

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said centralizing ad spending, especially of GFIs and GOCCs, under the President could be used as a weapon to "choke" unfriendly media.

GFIs, such as the Social Security System and the Government Service and Insurance System, and GOCCs, like Pagcor and PCSO, are among the biggest ad spenders in the country.

With national government agencies holding ad budgets running into hundreds of millions, the Palace has probably realized the power of money in influencing media, Conde said.

"This is certainly premeditated. It is trying its best to intimidate press and this can be used as a weapon," he said.

Conde said he feared that some small but critical newspapers would tone down critical stories because of the new order. "I wouldn't be surprised if many media outlets succumbed to pressure from Malacañang."

Ad boycott won't work

But Jake Macasaet of the Philippine Press Institute (PPI) said any attempt to threaten the media with an ad boycott would not work.

"To be fair, advertisers have the exclusive right to choose where to put their money. But this (EO 511) is using advertising clout to rein in the media. But it will never work," said Macasaet, who is also the publisher of Malaya.

He noted that the advertising budget of government agencies represented a minimal part of the ad revenues of newspapers.

"For a big newspaper like the INQUIRER, for example, the ad budget from the government is small. It will not be enough to put any paper, whether a small one like mine, down on its knees. This will have minimal effect on media but a negative effect on them (the government)," Macasaet said.

While he admitted that Malaya might lose money, "that will not change my mind about how rotten this administration is. I've been fair to them, but the damage [to government] is just too big."

Backlash

Vergel Santos of the Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility said EO 511 could be used as leverage by government in an attempt to get a "better press."

"It is a way of controlling as much of the market as it can. In a way, it will suffocate media," Santos said.

But he said the order could be counterproductive.

"This may also be the undoing of government," he said. "There will be a backlash. For example, a campaign against advertising in government media. I would call for that. It it is a way we can counter that campaign."

Santos explained that the government should not even compete with private media in the first place by setting up its own media outfits.

Nothing sinister

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said there was nothing sinister about the consolidation of the government's advertising budgets under the Communication Group.

"There is no such thing (control of ad spending). Of course, we will give everyone the decision where they will advertise," Ermita told reporters.

He insisted that EO 511 was not related to Presidential Proclamation No. 1017, which vested Ms Arroyo with emergency powers for a week ostensibly to crush a coup plot against her.

"It's just incidental," said Ermita of the order's signing two weeks after PP 1017 was issued.

"Toting Bunye is just the overall coordinator of mass media activities so that what the left hand does, the right hand knows," he said.

Tribune's lampoon issue

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez had said PP 1017 had a "sobering effect" on the media.

During the national emergency, police raided The Daily Tribune and Abante, the military sent soldiers to two private TV stations and the justice department filed charges against journalists.

Ermita said EO 511 was not an offshoot of the recent anniversary edition of The Daily Tribune in which the face of Ms Arroyo was superimposed on the face of a woman in a bikini.

He was surprised when he learned that one of the advertisers in the lampoon edition was the state-owned Land Bank of the Philippines.

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Solons ask DOJ to dismiss raps

By Armand N. Nocum

THE LAWYERS OF SIX PARTY-list representatives and another militant leader charged with rebellion in an alleged plot to topple President Macapagal-Arroyo demanded the dismissal of the case against them yesterday, saying it was "fatally defective" and backed by "voluminous, worthless documents."

State Prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco, who presided over the preliminary investigation of the legislators implicated in the alleged rightist-leftist plot to grab power which the government claims to have thwarted last Feb. 24, forced the police to bare their chief witness' face during the investigation on pain of having his testimony thrown out.

Velasco also rejected a demand by the six legislators—Representatives Rafael Mariano and Crispin Beltran of Anakpawis; Representatives Satur Ocampo, Teddy Casiño and Joel Virador of Bayan Muna; and Rep. Liza Maza of Gabriela—that they be released from detention in the House of Representatives. He said they should bring the matter up to Philippine National Police Director General Arturo Lumibao or even the Supreme Court.

Lead counsel Romeo Capulong asked for the dismissal of the case on grounds that the complaint filed by the PNP had not been properly sworn and subscribed to, which he called a "very fatal mistake."

In addition, he said, a reading of the 482 pages of documentary evidence against the legislators showed they "all irrelevant and inadmissible."

Another militant implicated in the case is Vicente Ladlad, a member of Bayan Muna who is at large but was represented at yesterday's hearing by lawyer Jose Manuel I. Diokno.

Restive Mt. Bulusan settles down

MOUNT BULUSAN is calm hours after spewing ash.

NIÑO JESUS ORBETA/PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

SORSOGON CITY—RESTIVE Bulusan Volcano settled down hours after it spewed ash that sent residents of communities around it to panic.

According to the latest bulletin issued by the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, the volcano registered a total of seven high frequency volcanic earthquakes, down from the 58 volcanic seismic events and four explosion-type volcanic earthquakes earlier recorded by its observatory station in Barangay Cabid-an here.

However, Phivolcs warned that more explosions could still occur in view of the volcano's recent reactivation.

Resident volcanologist Bella Tubianosa said Phivolcs was continuously monitoring seismic activities as well as visual signs from the volcano while awaiting results of the analysis of the ash samples sent to Manila. *Bobby Labalan with a report from Niño Jesus Orbeta, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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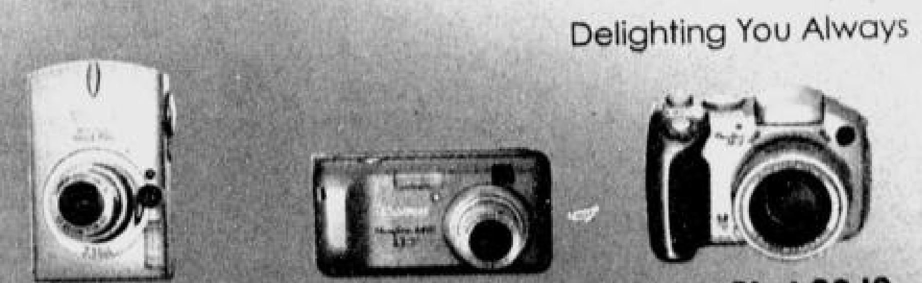

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 2006

ISSN 0116-2642

INQUIRER

Vol. 21 No. 106

Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net

OPINION

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THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.
•Circulation Customer Service Hotline 896-6000

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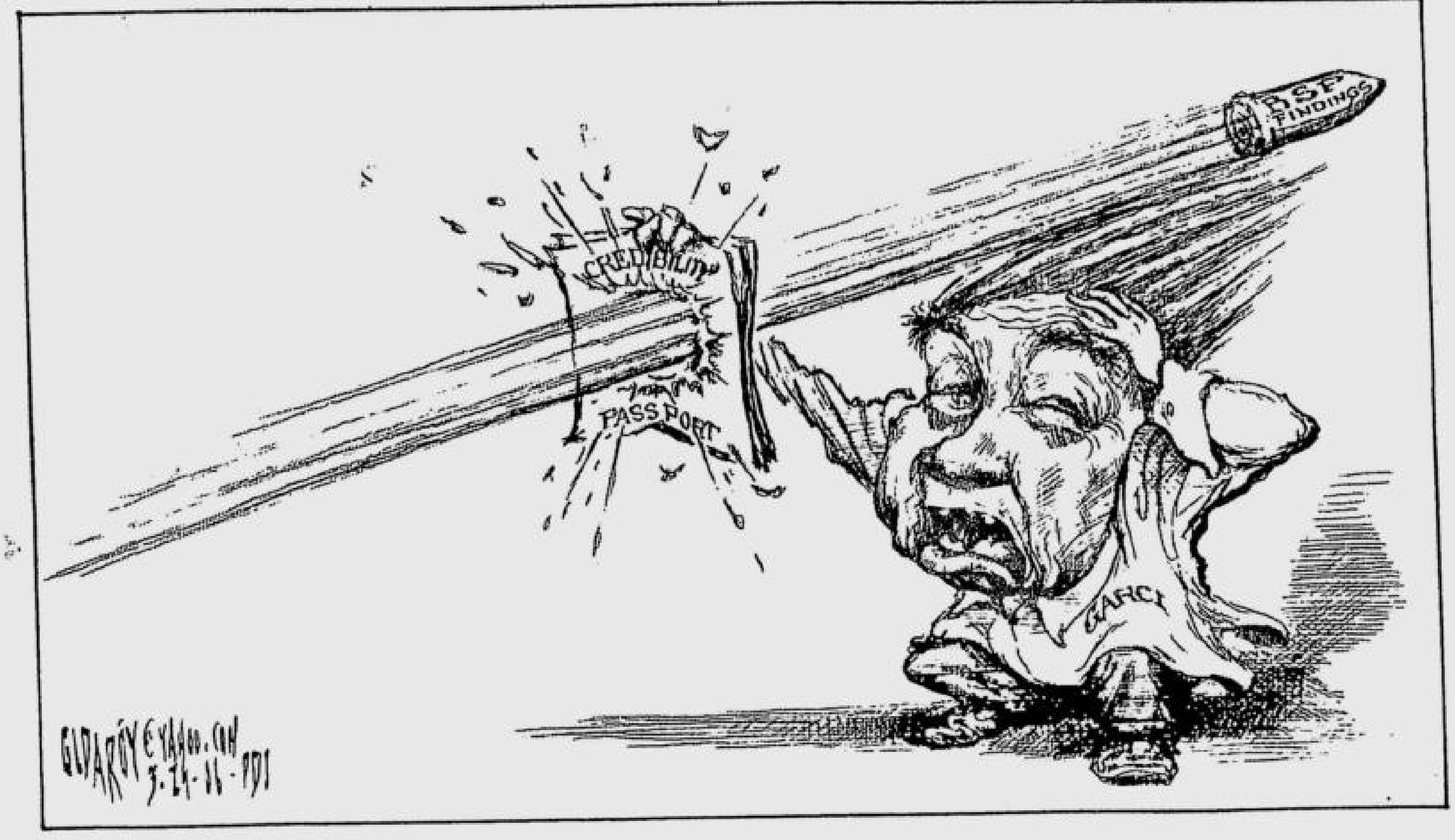


End to debate

EDITORIAL

LAST YEAR, PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO called for a "great debate" on amending the Constitution to begin. She suggested that the transformation of our system of government into a federal, unicameral and parliamentary system is the call of the times. Since each of these is a major change in itself, a great debate is, indeed, timely and necessary.

Since then, however, what the nation has seen is a series of controlled situations meant to give the appearance of a debate. The President's own Constitutional Consultative Commission got bogged down in recriminations within the ranks which the mass distribution of the Presidential Medal of Merit could not soothe or dispel. Each major proposal has yet to be adequately debated: for example, the question of federalism hinges on whether it would be better to embark on the transition to formal federalism (and at what speed, and according to what criteria), or whether the same objective of achieving devolution to the provinces would be accomplished by more aggressively implementing the Local Government Code.

The debate on parliamentary government, too, remains haunted by suspicions that Ms Arroyo would use it to perpetuate herself in power or otherwise escape accountability for the various questions hounding both the legitimacy of her presidency and her governance. The current draft proposed by the House of Representatives also grants parliament the power to pick the date for the first election under a new charter—the kind of discretion that immediately inspires distrust.

The argument on the pros and cons of a unicameral legislature has been reduced to two sides of an ugly coin: either a Senate painted as incapable of thinking of the national interest by stubbornly resisting the House, or a House fanatically obsessed with destroying the Senate at all costs, when every reasonable interpretation of the Constitution clearly suggests that until and unless both Houses can agree to abolish one or the other, no abolition can take place.

With the great debate bogged down as it is, a disturbing trend of thought has emerged, which suggests that the way out of the impasse is to abandon debate and resort to the use of political machinery. Unofficially, administration officials have floated the possibility of harnessing local governments from the barangay to the provincial level to push forward a kind of people's initiative to propose only one thing: the abolition of the Senate. That's one amendment, which would result in a referendum, and if approved, the now unicameral National Assembly would then far more easily further amend or even completely rewrite the Constitution, and then submit it once more to a referendum. In both cases, the administration coalition thinks, after carefully considering its resources, it can win.

Such a victory would be proclaimed as a victory for democracy. Done quickly enough, it would also be a victory for unaccountability, since neither the President nor the House nor local government officials, would have to submit to the people's judgment through elections. In the first place, elections could be postponed until tempers cool; and with term limits abolished, incumbents who supported the President could use their clout and means to remain in office. The President would be safe from impeachment (her House majority will not evaporate overnight) and she could gain a new lease on political life as prime minister.

Such is the unease that this scheme, which remains unofficial and thus deniable, of course, has caused, that the barangay assemblies scheduled for tomorrow, Sunday and April 8 have taken on a sinister character. Could such assemblies, of which there are usually only two a year, signal the beginning of the administration drive to steamroll the Senate and the public into submission? And if so, what legal weight would they have?

The answer looks easy: Why, bring it to the Supreme Court. But so many important cases are still pending before the Court that adding another urgent question begging for early resolution would simply add to the backlog without clarifying anything.

What can we expect in the coming weeks? Ask the local officials who have begun gathering signatures. Ask the administration officials supervising them in turn. And ask the President if this is what she means by holding a great debate.

GMA policy toward 'jueteng' lords: Join them

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

ISN'T IT IRONIC THAT WHILE FORMER President Joseph Estrada is being tried for allegedly receiving kickbacks from *jueteng*, the person who grabbed the presidency from him is restoring the illegal numbers game under another name? The Small Town Lottery being pushed by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office and Malacañang is the same dog with a different collar.

It has the same mechanics as jueteng (the only difference is that while jueteng has the numbers 1 to 38 to choose from, STL has numbers 1 to 40), the same *cobradores* to collect bets, and the same *cabos* to supervise the bet collectors. And the same jueteng lords to run the operation.

And isn't it also ironic that the anti-jueteng czar appointed by President Macapagal-Arroyo, Puerto Princesa Mayor Edward Hagedorn, is at the forefront of the push to propagate the illegal lottery?

If you can't lick them, join them. This seems to be the motto of the administration now.

The government has spent millions of pesos and buckets of saliva trying to give the impression that it is fighting jueteng, which has been denounced as evil by the Catholic Church and decent members of society. After so much pretending and publicity, the administration has decided to join the jueteng bandwagon. The administration and jueteng lords are now bedfellows, partners in crime. So that's why GMA has been visiting and charming the bishops.

While Malacañang claims that the coup plot against it has been foiled, it successfully carried out a coup of its own. Two of the President's running dogs, Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno and Chief of Staff Michael Defensor, pulled the coup on Hagedorn. Puno and Defensor now run the STL, while Hagedorn, who made the preparations, has been left holding an empty bag. There is just so much money in STL that Palace factotums can't resist the temptation to dip their fingers in it.

It is significant that after the PCSO announced the launching of the STL, Malacañang and the DILG, through Defensor and Puno, immediately suspended it, only to restore it less than 24 hours later, with the two of them serving as the top jueteng lords. Not only that, they gave the STL at least a one-year trial run, enough time to raise funds for the 2007 elections and Charter change.

The fact that Hagedorn and the PCSO have been preparing for and testing the STL for the last six months secretly is proof that they know what they are doing is not right, and that they don't want Malacañang to know for precisely the reason that the Palace coup was sprung: the Palace insiders want to be the new bosses of the now legal numbers game.

So is it "happy days are here again" for the jueteng lords (by the way, that was the theme song of the administration when Diosdado Macapagal, the ever-loving Daddy of GMA, won the presidency)?

Why would the jueteng lords not be happy? The PCSO is awarding franchises to private individuals or groups who would operate the STL in each town or province. Each operator must have at least a P10-million capitalization and has to deposit another P5 million with the PCSO. Who has that kind of money for such a shady enterprise but the jueteng lords? Besides, they have the experience and the manpower to run the reincarnated jueteng. So the jueteng lords, who have been violating the law for many years and got rich for it, have been made legal as the new franchise holders. They no longer have to bribe policemen, military officials and local and national government officials, and so their net income would be much bigger.

Not only that, they can still run their old illegal jueteng, using STL as camouflage. Their *cobradores* can pretend to collect bets for the legal STL but actually do it for the colorum operation. Or the colorum can offer more and bigger prices, or accept lower bets (minimum bet for STL is 50 centavos; bettors can bet as little as 25 centavos in jueteng), or have more draws per day. Also, the franchise holders can cheat the government by underdeclaring the gross income for the day (the PCSO, local government units, and the police get varying percentages of the daily income). Thus, the government would lose money. Or, as in jueteng draws, they can cheat the bettors by making only the smallest bets win.

I plead guilty to giving the idea of a lottery run by local government units to replace jueteng to give jobs to the displaced jueteng workers who number in the millions. Because without alternative jobs, they would continue to work for the old jueteng lords, or worse, start peddling drugs. But I was against giving out franchises to private individuals because that would only reward the jueteng lords. They would corner the franchises, either by themselves or through dummies (the PCSO does not ban jueteng lords from getting franchises) and continue bribing policemen, military men, municipal employees and barangay officials.

My idea was to let the local government units run the STL, with the police, municipal officials and employees, barangay officials and even congressmen getting a percentage of the income. That way, the government men will work hard to fight jueteng because the lower the income going to STL, the smaller their share. Thus, they will resist the bribes offered by jueteng lords.

Moreover, I proposed that the draws should be held in public plazas with everybody watching so that there would be no cheating.

Why restrict the overseas Filipino professional?

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

"REGULATE THE EXODUS OF SKILLS AND talents! Keep the best and the brightest at home!" screamed the banner of a full-page, paid ad that appeared in the INQUIRER the other day.

That call was issued by a group calling itself the Fair Trade Alliance (FTA). It asks that we regulate the migration of Filipino professionals and highly skilled workers.

I share their concerns, but not their conclusion. You can only control people's dreams at your own peril. Fair trade means that traders must be free to compete in the open market, and workers should be just as free to seek the highest value for their labor, locally or abroad. What is sauce for the capitalist goose should be sauce for the proletarian gander, even those whose labors are mental and not menial.

"Overseas employment, the nation's economic lifeline, is turning into its gravedigger." The figures indeed are staggering: 5 million overseas migrant workers and 3 million immigrants, sending remittances to support one-fourth of the population. The FTA warns that the continued outflow of talent has begun to "decimate [our] few but vital industries" and jeopardize basic services like health and education. The depletion of "mission-critical skills" has imperiled our hospitals, with a low nurse-to-patient ratio. And, most critical of all (and which may explain the full-page ad), our aviation industry has suffered from "foreign poaching" of trained pilots and aviation mechanics, and, in terms of investments in "experiential learning," the FTA estimates losses of P1 million for each pirated Filipino pilot and around P500,000 for each purloined mechanic.

The portents are scary indeed, but the remedies are just as worrisome. The FTA proposes the "stricter regulation of the outflow of critical skills and talents in crucial and strategic industries." That is technocrat talk for "Catch them at Naia." A National Service Act will restrict the migration of "mission-critical professionals," and require them to render some sort of compulsory community service for a few years.

There is, to start with, a minor hitch known as the Bill of Rights, which ensures every Filipino's "right to travel." International human rights treaties speak of it as the "right to leave and to return," and the Supreme Court held that since the Constitution merely said "to travel," that excluded the "to return" part. Well anyway, that's what it took to bar Ferdinand Marcos from returning to the Philippines. By whatever interpretation, the right "to travel" still includes the right "to leave," and that is the only part of the Bill of Rights that any aspiring Pinoy TNT cares about right now.

At best, then, any return-service requirement needs to be custom-tailored to the nation's needs. The period of compulsory service should be fixed and limited, and the covered professions must be confined solely to those truly in crisis.

However, if the problem is the drying up of the supply of professionals, then by all means let us increase the supply. If there is a shortage of nurses, let us open more nursing schools and train more nurses. After all, there are 84 million Filipinos; if even just 5 percent of us are of trainable age and competence, that's already 4 million skilled brains. And if there is real demand overseas for their God-given talents, let them go where those talents are justly remunerated.

Perhaps the real problem is our schools, and our attitude toward diplomas and degrees. Students learn fancy skills for non-existent jobs, and end up jobless or underemployed. They learn Shakespeare in the land of Pepe and Pilar. Either we match our schools' supply with the job market's demand, or we accept it as perfectly legitimate—as indeed it is—that college students learn Shakespeare and then affect a mid-Western American accent in a call center.

I think the real fear is that to increase the supply of skilled brain workers, we must settle for the lesser brained, and that the only way to maintain quality control is to limit access to the professions. I firmly believe that we can democratize admissions without diluting academic standards. Having been a teacher for more than 20 years, I have no illusions about Filipino students. But I have no illusions, either, about admissions tests: maybe Albert Einstein might have flunked the UPCAT or the NMAT—he after all said that "imagination is more important than knowledge."

The FTA is correct that a return-service requirement should cover the societal investment in their education, but to enforce it by law would only create a class of bright but frustrated Filipinos chafing at their chains and hating the world, a perfect recruiting pool for terrorists and coup plotters.

But there is nothing to stop us from enforcing a return-service obligation, not by law, but by voluntary contract. For example, UP professors who are sent abroad on fellowships at UP's expense are tied down to a return-service requirement. By and large, professors have honored this obligation. There are some "Reneging Fellows," as they are officially called, but I trust that the university's lawyers diligently check on these deadbeat academics who have in effect run away with taxpayers' money.

This system of voluntary contracts must extend to UP's own graduates. Their education is heavily subsidized, but that subsidy is invisible. It leads to a sense of entitlement by the beneficiaries (indeed, a Darwinian sense of achievement that they beat others to the subsidy), and a lack of appreciation for the taxpayers who shouldered the true cost of their education.

It takes a village to raise a child. Then let the child know how much thanks he owes the village.

* * *

Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com

Duplicity of generals

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE NATION HAS NOT HEARD THE LAST WORD from Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga. Speaking to members of the Philippine Constitution Association on Tuesday, Senga warned, "We have not seen the last of the attempts at power grab."

The warning was the most striking statement in his speech that also lanced the media, and the "deepening leftist-rightist alliance" that "will not be uprooted in a single stroke." He singled out the media for blame, saying that the AFP's effort to counter coups "is further made difficult by the propensity of certain sectors of media to romanticize erring officers and soldiers, portraying them as messianic figures that they are certainly not."

Notable is that Senga, who is not yet a messianic figure, glibly glossed over the incontrovertible fact that all the nearly one dozen coup attempts since 1986 were staged by his cohorts in the officer corps, and none by the Left or people-power driven movements. The media do not create military messiahs. Messianic figures have a fertile breeding ground in the military establishment that has developed the complex that soldiers are the agents of "national salvation." The media only discover messiahs.

What is striking is that since the aborted Feb. 24 coup, Senga has mounted not a coup but an offensive to set the national agenda and the themes of public debate. Between Feb. 24 and last Tuesday, he has delivered a series of speeches and public statements that tried to define the role of the Armed Forces as the guarantor of constitutional democracy and the protector of the state. In his new task of defining military intervention in the current political crisis of the Arroyo administration, Senga has been assisted by a gaggle of generals and colonels, including one who said, presumably with the blessings of Senga, that "we are one of the strong pillars holding the nation . . . if we break, the nation will collapse."

In this new rhetorical front of military intervention in politics, this time using words as their weapon of mass subjugation, the generals have not only seized the initiative for agenda-setting from the President, Congress and the non-official votaries of public opinion, the media. They have also redefined the rules of democratic political action, as the constitutional mode for political change.

In this offensive, the soldiers have relegated the elected countervailing political institutions of democracy—chief among them, Congress—to the backseat. This intervention has set national policy on national security and reduced Congress to silence, making it a mere spectator of events fomented by the soldiers themselves.

Whether members of Congress were intimidated or not by the declaration of a national emergency, the fact is that congressmen and senators have supinely accepted the usurpation of their functions and have suddenly lost their ardor for investigations or privilege speeches denouncing corruption, abuse of power or breaches of constitutional guarantees.

The only noteworthy event in the Senate during the short-lived state of emergency was the acrimonious exchange between Senators Juan Ponce Enrile and Jamby Madrigal, in which Enrile came out with the dubious distinction of bullying a woman. The intramurals took place while the military and police were riding roughshod over the constitutional guarantees of freedom of assembly and speech in the enforcement of Presidential Proclamation 1017 and General Order No. 5.

The speeches and statements of Senga and other officers underlined the duplicity of the generals in defining whether they were defending the constitutional precept of civilian supremacy over the military, the chain of command, or were promoting the agenda of their colleagues of establishing a military dictatorship. The statements were ambiguous on where the loyalty or the allegiance of the military leadership lay—whether with their comrades in arms implicated in the coup or their commander in chief. The statements were mendacious, full of double talk, leaving the public wondering where the military leadership stood during the crisis and doubting whether the officers were promoting their own agenda of grabbing power. The statements were a masterpiece of prevarication over the issue of military neutrality in political crises. They were hardly reassuring to the public and the civil society sector.

On March 8, Senga issued a five-point "guidance" on the role of the AFP "in these trying times." The guidance said, among others, "We are not to be regarded as a potent political force to be used by politicians in the furtherance of their vested interests." It added that "as mandated, we must remain apolitical."

But Senga skirted the issue. The danger lies not in their being used by "vested interests." It comes from the barracks. It comes from the increasing involvement of soldiers in plots to seize power without giving it back to the civilians. The last coup plot planned to install a "transition council"—a junta—to replace the government, if it had been ousted.

Despite the apparently innocuous wording of the guidance, Senga undermined the protestation of neutrality with his speech last Tuesday warning of "further coup attempts" resulting from continuing "plots of the Left and the Right." These plots provide the opportunities for further military interventions, in which it is uncertain where Senga will stand.

Senga, in effect, is laying the ground for open-ended intervention.

'I'm sorry Mother Earth'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

A "MEA CULPA" COUNTDOWN IS HOW THE Earth Day Network Philippines has billed the month-long run-up to the celebration of Earth Day on April 22. "Do you know what mea culpa means?" asked the Network's Odette Alcantara in her keynote talk at the Countdown's launching last Wednesday. "It means 'I'm sorry.' Because when we look at the state of the environment today, we must realize that we are all at fault."

The Countdown was launched with a cultural presentation called "Panaghoy at Panata kay Inang Kalikasan (Lamentation and Vow to Mother Nature)" at the Amphitheater of the Bantayog ng mga Bayani. Part of the "lamentation" was a tribute to the women, many of them members of Abanse! Pinay holding a meeting to plan, among other things, their activities for Women's Month, of Barangay Guinsaugon and nearby barangays of St. Bernard, Southern Leyte. With their neighbors and families, all of them died when earth and rocks, loosened from the mountainside by days of continuous rain, slid and fell in a deadly landslide that buried their village.

The lamentation was thus a tribute to the women's unity and dedication to their cause—which was the welfare of their community and their rights as women. And they died as martyrs to another cause near to the hearts of women: the environment.

Opinions are divided on what caused the landslide. Was it the denuded mountainsides, planted over with shallow-rooted coconut trees in place of the virgin forest? Or was it simply the location of Barangay Guinsaugon at the foot of a mountain whose treacherous slope had already led authorities to identify the area as a geo-hazard spot?

Whatever the cause, with their passing, our sisters in Guinsaugon have opened our eyes to our vulnerability to natural disasters and to the consequences of our indifference to the damage being done to the environment. Mea culpa indeed!

* * *

ODETTE, "Mother Earth herself" as we teased her, had a code word for all environmentalists: LAHAT, for "*lupa, araw, hangin, ako at tubig* (earth, sun, wind, me and water)."

To cite a mantra of environmentalists: We are all connected. We are all linked. Nothing happens on this earth that will not, somehow, affect us and leave an imprint on us. And "*lahat*," said Odette, means each of us, every *ako*, is responsible for everything in our environment, because everything we do, after all, affects our soil, our water sources and the very air we breathe.

Bebet Gozun, former environment secretary and chair of Earth Day Network Philippines, underscored Odette's message in her closing remarks, noting how every stage of human life, every minute of our day entails interacting with our environment. "So each time you throw something away, each time you wash your hands, each time you flush the toilet, think about your own personal contribution to solid waste management and to the contamination of our bodies of water."

* * *

AMONG THE FEATURED performers at the Countdown launch were Mascomthea, a community drama troupe of the Sagip Pasig Movement based in Sta. Ana trained by stage, film and TV performer Lou Veloso. They presented tableaus/commentaries on environmental issues, with background music provided by "musical" instruments from recycled containers, bottles and tambourines fashioned from scrap metal.

Joining Mascomthea was Womenspace, a group of three women backed up by a band of alternative musicians, who through song, poetry and dance led the "lamentation" for the women of Guinsaugon as well as the more celebratory community dancing at the close of the occasion.

Earth Day will be observed on April 22 with a slew of activities, with Earth Day Network Philippines leading the observance with a Mass and "environmental liturgy" at Smokey Mountain, a rehabilitated open dump that was once a symbol of poverty in this country and now a center of environmental education and community activity.

* * *

I WAS supposed to read the names of the women of Guinsaugon who perished in the landslide, but due to miscommunication, I wasn't able to bring the list with me. Here are some of the names of the members of the Guinsaugon Women's Health Organization, all of them confirmed dead or listed as missing. I will write the rest of the names in tomorrow's column. Your prayers and remembrance will be highly appreciated.

Elvira Esclavosa, Alma Arbio, Prescyl Mesa, Anaclita AureMary Gemintiza, Jocelyn Sajol, Joylita Bolasco, Amelia Mundano, Gloria Libaton, Jeralyn Pagulong, Fely Ichon, Arlyn Velasco, Leonarda Elmosora, Myrna Gramatico, Jacinta Libaton, Trinidad Coquilla, Alma Sibunga, Maureen Inso, Rosell Libaton, Narcisa Japson, Eva Reño.

Prima Punio, Creselda Bolanio, Basiledes Orbezo, Marissa Ybañez, Rosalita Omela, Cristina Arbiol, Jorgina Omela, Porferia Libaton, Evelyn, Bolasco, Simplecia Lisondra, Sherlita Pia, Visminda Bolasco, Anecita Cawaling, Aurora Pia, Lydia Peligro, Rayda Manatac, Zenaida Libaton, Jocelyn Pia, Rosita Coquilla, Teofanes Casera, Absalon Libaton.

Marivic Pelesco, Roberto Peligro, Marilou Laderas, Estrella Bulagsac, Marciana Credo, Rosalia Libaton, Rosario Siega, Saturnina Bacala, Victoria Omela, Anecita Coquilla, Arlyn Baylan, Teodora Siega, Ailyn Daohog, Marilou Laderas, Milagros Garcia, Ma. Teresa Marsada, Anabel Paler, Cecilia Naparuta, Mary Jane Libaton, Vivian Patual.

Laurencia Danduan, Melanie Coquilla, Julia Montibon, Virgie Mondano, Dolores Coquilla, Deolita Siega, Anita Denden, Myrna Libaton, Mary Ann Estafia, Joan Coquilla, Liza Baylan, Marilyn Coquilla, Jenefer Ocon, Loreta Numeron, Anecita Duhiling, Pila Maca, Saviena Estafia, Anita Tinio, Edonedia Esquerra, Elena Terante, Leonora Lego.

Liberation from history

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

HISTORY OFTEN SEEMS SO DISTANT, SO FAR away to be of use in our daily lives. This is why I require my students to dig up and read the newspapers that came out on the day they were born. Without prodding, the students see parallels between the past and the present and realize, sadly, that the world has not changed very much in the past two decades.

If they are diligent, they can go back 200 or 2,000 years and still see similarities. It seems we have not learned anything from history at all, and that is a very depressing thought indeed. It is one thing to know the past, but knowing what to do with it is something else. Our aim should be to be liberated from our history.

For the past two weeks, I have been sorting out the books that have overgrown my bookshelves, files that have outgrown the boxes and filing cabinets where they were planted years ago. I have so much material in storage that I do not have to go out and do research in a library or archive to write this column, but the thrill is in the chase. Once you have found what you are looking for, you search for something else.

On day, I found a bundle of 3" x 5" index cards that was standard issue for research in the last century. Today, we have laptops, palm tops, cell phones and other handy devices that make life much easier but do not replace the actual hands-on research work.

I have dug up a whole pile of notes from the 1926 Philippines Free Press and this made some very engaging reading. Old news were still current.

There is an ongoing hunt for that school teacher who punished her students by forcing them to eat pencil shavings. This would not have been noticed, except that one of the children died. So much for corporal punishment. In 1926 Lazaro Yumul, a principal from Concepcion, Tarlac, conducted a survey where 265 of the 700 pupils who answered a questionnaire said they had been whipped. All the 132 primary school students opposed corporal punishment. When asked to explain why, their answer was simple and direct to the point: "It hurts!"

In the intermediate grades, 89 said they had experienced corporal punishment. But while 64 opposed corporal punishment, 23 accepted it as atonement for a wrong done, and 46 even said the pain would make them better! The 64 who opposed corporal punishment explained their position as follows: 30 said, "It hurts"; 18 said, "I didn't do anything to warrant the rod"; six respondents said the punishment made them angry; five disagreed with being whipped; and five cried injustice.

One wonders how students today would answer the same questionnaire, but an interesting question Yumul asked was: "If you are stronger [and bigger], what will you do to a parent who whipped you?" A total of 80 students said they would run away from home; four said they would become naughtier to get even, three said they would refuse to do [household and school] work [and chores]; three said they would get angry; three would refuse to eat; and two would apologize. It is significant to note that two respondents said they would apologize for their wrongdoing and 47 would actually be sorry for any wrong they had done. On the other hand, 58 said they would patiently endure the pain while 41 said they would try to please the parent who spanked them.

Many Filipinos today are not in favor of corporal punishment anymore, and it seems we have relaxed on many things as well, especially sex. However, there is a group of self-proclaimed guardians of morality who are now reacting and hounding the MTRCB for approving the films "Brokeback Mountain" and "Munich." I have not seen either film, so I will reserve comment for later, but this kind of thinking goes all the way back to 1926 when there was a moral crusade against "kissing." At the time, it was popular to wear an inverted question mark formed from a lock of hair on the forehead of women called the "kiss-me lock." It was described as a modern-day mistletoe, and guardians of morality were against it. Generoso Ruiz wrote a letter to the Philippines Free Press wailing:

"...[W]here have you seen in this God's country of ours a typical Filipina over whom Rizal and Luna went into raptures, allowing herself to be kissed by her lover publicly, or even privately, by the light of the silver moon?

"...[T]he Filipino girl's modesty and coyness forbids such extravagances. Possibly among forward Filipino girls, who have aped modern-imported customs. Those of the demimonde class, where the last vestige of Filipino maidenhood and purity has fallen and given way to the power of jazz and jazz-made customs, such kissing scenes may be found, perhaps. But these Filipino girls, mind you, are not the typical Filipino girls I refer to. The rouged and bobhead-haired girls are an anachronism in our Philippine life—a part of the deluge progress has brought to the Filipinos, something that reminds you of the Spanish saying, '*no hay mal que por bien no venga.*'

"...[W]e may have woman suffrage in this country, which is another evil brought by progress, we may have bobbed-hair and jazz, but for heaven's sake, let us not parade before the public promiscuous scenes with kissing in them that are not true to life."

One can only guess what planet Mr. Ruiz came from. History, at least, shows us that we have progressed in many ways.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Peta comes home

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

I CAN'T REMEMBER THE TITLE OF THE FIRST PETA PLAY I saw, except that I found it particularly exciting that it was in "Tagalog." At that time, and maybe even to some extent today, Tagalog movies were seen as hoi-polloi and Tagalog plays, well, *excusez-moi*, my friends would say, but let's go *naman* to watch something else. There was, and is, certainly no lack of local productions of Broadway musicals and American plays.

Peta (Philippine Educational Theater Association) as a maverick, started by Cecile Guidote-Alvarez in 1967. Swept up by the growing nationalism of the times, Peta dared to think, and to act, in Filipino. Through the years, it has produced more than 300 plays, mostly by Filipinos and in Filipino. Literally hundreds of Filipino theater people—directors (the most famous being Lino Brocka), performing artists, theater production staff—cut their teeth with Peta.

Peta brought the magic of theater, without the artificial glitter of our movie industry, to Filipinos of all ethnicities, of all classes. But as the "E" in its name implies, it also saw theater as educational. When you think about it, this isn't exactly a development from the 1960s. Traditional theater all over the world has always been educational in its own way, a way of instilling a society's values. But in the context of our own colonial past, theater also often questioned the political and social status quo. Vaudeville during the American colonial period was entertainment for the masses but was also often fiercely nationalistic.

Peta's plays would tackle burning political and social issues—they were quite bold even during the martial law era—but without becoming too preachy or propagandistic. Their plays had a way of linking a very specific issue, for example, overseas work, with wider issues. Ultimately, the popularity of Peta plays came with the way they offered us glimpses into our psyche, into our souls, allowing us to laugh, to weep, to rage, to stand proud.

And yet, Peta never really had a home.

Road warriors

Until a year or two ago, if you wanted to catch a Peta play, you'd call friends and suggest, "Let's go to Fort Santiago." Shortly after establishing Peta, Cecile was able to convince Teodoro Valencia to give them space in Fort Santiago. Leandro Locsin came in to transform one part of the fort into an open-air theater named after Rajah Sulayman. There, for years, from December to April, Peta would launch its plays.

I'm going to miss Rajah Sulayman's ambience, but I also saw its limitations. The theater season was limited to December through April, to avoid the rains, as well as the extreme summer heat. But even then, there were times when plays had to be canceled because of unexpected rains.

That was only part of the problem. Peta had to keep renting office space, moving 12 times over the last 39 years. It got to the point where I'd meet friends from Peta and my first question would be, "Where's your office now?"

There was a certain charm to all this, the idea of a band of free-spirited road warriors roaming the country, and later, the world, but there were limits to this nomadic existence. The last few years, Peta roped me in to help discuss gender and sexuality issues with their performers, and I never knew where I'd end up. One time Margie Holmes and I sat on the stage of a school auditorium, talking about vamps and virgins. That talk ended up with a rather risqué showcase presentation done in the school's courtyard, competing with an evangelical gathering next door.

Even nomads need a home, so Peta began its Theater Center project a few years back. I'm going to take a risk here by naming some names, knowing I'll inevitably miss out on many of those who worked hard. From the Peta end, there was Jack Yabut, who coordinated the project, backed by board chair Ramon del Rosario Jr., Peta president Cecilia Garrucho and executive director Beng Cabangon.

The diversity of donors reflected the way Peta appeals. There were European church organizations as well as local corporations; individual donors were as mixed, from Jose Mari Chan and Sen. Francis Pangilinan to former Philippine expats Rosalia Sciortino and O'ong Maryono.

Ideas

Last Saturday, Peta finally inaugurated its new home, a four-story glass, concrete and metal building, designed by Locsin Associates, standing high and proud on a 1,000-sq m lot on a street appropriately called Sunnyside in Quezon City. Inside are administrative offices, a Resource Center which I suspect will become a major documentation and archival center for Philippine theater, and lots of wide open spaces for brainstorming, rehearsals and for occasional side productions.

Filipinos are always ambivalent about concrete and glass buildings. We are attracted by the modernity, but we're also intimidated. You see that with malls: we love them, yet we have all kinds of urban legends about snakes in the dressing rooms, ghosts in the toilets.

Peta's concrete and glass building isn't that way. A few weeks back, Peta called me in to help with a Rockefeller-funded project to train theater people from the Mekong area (Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, China) to integrate theater and reproductive health education. Again, I facilitated a session sitting on the floor, but this time in a huge room that was Peta's own. As I spent the day with the Mekong theater people, I could feel the entire center pulsating with energy and life. Something seemed to be going on all the time in some part of the building. If this place has resident ghosts, they'll probably be friendly, maybe theatrical, ones. It's a warm place, a bit like cocoons, or wombs, where you can gestate ideas and ideals.

Red Box

When it's time, those ideas and ideals bear fruit, the birthing taking place in the theater, which Peta people call the Red Box. They've already used this for several plays, as well as a special presentation on the night of the inauguration.

I think of it as a huge little theater. It can take 400 people, which is quite a few people, but just about right for the intimacy that we had in Fort Santiago, appropriate to the kind of audience engagement that Peta plays are famous for.

It's also a theater that allows for tradition and modernity. For the inauguration, Peta had a retrospective that used a video flashed through an LCD projector, as well as live performances of songs from different plays. Oh, but songs do trigger nostalgia, with particular styles we had to learn to associate with particular composers like Louie Pascasio and Lut Labad (now based in Bohol, but who flew in for the inauguration). I'm hoping Peta records these songs for future generations of Filipinos.

The center's going to be busy this summer, with the usual rounds of workshops for young people. (Call 721-8604, 725-6244 for their summer workshop offerings.) But this time, when the rains come, they'll actually open a new theater season. I'll miss Fort Santiago, but I look forward to the new season as Peta finally comes home.

Repression begets revolution

THE ARREST OF OUR CHAIRPERSON, Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel, demonstrates the continuing harassment of progressive legislators and individuals by the immoral and illegal administration of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. The arrest is evidence of the Arroyo regime's unrelenting assault on the democratic ideals of the Filipino people with or without 1017. Ms Arroyo has simply no respect for our freedom and human rights.

We are also appalled by the barbaric way that the authorities manhandled our chairperson. According to our leaders, she was dragged, pulled and shoved by policewomen in civilian clothes. It is unfortunate that this barbaric act was committed by policewomen on the very day marking International Women's Day. But we cannot blame them. We know they are just implementing orders from the country's No. 1 human rights violator—President Arroyo.

There is no doubt that the Arroyo-spearheaded repression will intensify in the days to come, but the Filipino people will not be cowed. We can feel the anger rising among us. It is brewing. History has shown that repression begets revolt. The Filipino people will prevail.

—ROY CALFOFORO,
secretary general,
Pandayan para sa
Sosyalistang Pilipinas,
Room 207,
Center for Community Services,
Social Development Complex,
Ateneo de Manila University,
Loyola Heights, Quezon City

Front page for bad news, inside page for good news

I COULD NOT HELP BUT NOTICE HOW the INQUIRER treats news concerning Meralco. The broadsheet usually publishes bad news about Meralco (like power rate increases) on its front pages, even bannering them at times.

But last March 14, the INQUIRER chose to print the news story about Meralco's power rate reductions on Page A-13 of its first section, where fewer people could see and read it. Why the double standard?

In contrast, another major daily printed a similar story on its front page, thereby enabling even the passersby at newsstands and other busy people to immediately know that they will soon be paying less for their electrical consumption.

Is the INQUIRER afraid that this will considerably lessen the "anger" that the public feels toward Meralco? The kind of public anger that the INQUIRER and its broadcast affiliate have been trying to instill in people's hearts and minds, because Meralco is an affiliate company of broadcast giant ABS-CBN?

—ROLLY CRUZ,
rollygc2003@yahoo.com

Impact on people's lives is one of the criteria INQUIRER editors consider in choosing stories for the front page. Like, for instance, the Supreme Court ordering Meralco to refund its customers billions of pesos in excess billings of the utility. Or, the increase in the electric bills of consumers due to the controversial purchase power agreements that Meralco had entered into with affiliated independent power producers. So, how about Meralco's recent move to reduce by 8.5-centavo/kWh the average cost of electricity it charges its customers? That's not even a 2-percent reduction in the cost per kWh for Meralco customers. Still, the editors decided to publish that particular item on an inside news page.

Stories land on the front page because editors consider them highly important for readers to know so that they can make informed choices and decisions. And not because these will hurt or please a powerful family or business interest.—Ed.

LETTERS PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

GMA's god

THIS IS IN REACTION TO THE claim of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo that "It's God's plan I'm here." (PDI 3/8/06) I respect her freedom to express her beliefs, but I'm wondering who was the God she was referring to. I am sure that her god cannot be the God of truth and justice; her god can't be the God who wants to ease the suffering of His people.

If GMA is truly a faithful follower of God, why does she continue to ignore the appeal of the bishops and the people for the relentless pursuit of the truth behind the Hello Garci tapes?

God's commandment is to love God and the least among our brethren. How come that GMA, who often uses the name of God, has no qualms about implementing policies that make our poor people poorer? Hence, I ask GMA, who is your God?

Proclamation 1017 has clearly led to the curtailment of our civil and political rights. It showed GMA's Marcosian, fascist and oppressive tendencies.

I plead with GMA: Please stop using the name of God to deceive people.

—GILBERT S. BILLENA,
seminarian, Order of Carmelites,
22 Anahaw St., Gloria 3 Subd.,
Culiat, Tandang Sora, Quezon City

First woman Cabinet member

THIS REFERS TO THE NEWS STORY "Fantastic role model, trailblazer, buried today" (PDI, 3/10/06) which cited Estefania Aldaba-Lim as the first woman Cabinet member.

However, in the INQUIRER's Jan. 7 issue, the editorial, titled "Ladies first," stated that (the late) Asuncion Arriola-Perez (my mother) was the first woman Cabinet secretary.

The error is grievous and ought to be corrected in order to spare the two families from further embarrassment.

—ERNESTO PEREZ,
eperez553@yahoo.com

A call to all educators and students

NEAL H. CRUZ'S OPENING STATEMENT in his Feb. 27 column best describes our feelings: "Wasn't it sad and ironic that on the very day that we were commemorating the 20th anniversary of Edsa I, that shining moment in our history when we broke the chains of a dictator, another dictator would emerge and put us back in chains, virtually bringing us back to those dark days of martial law?"

Many educators and youth leaders were at the forefront of the anti-martial law struggle. They are now being called upon once more to defend our democratic way of life in the face of very alarming, recent developments.

We join the nation's moral outrage against the arrest of Prof. Randy David and five party-list representatives. We condemn the raid on and takeover of The Daily Tribune.

It is dangerous when military officials are made—and assume the role of—the final arbiter of what is a seditious news report. The core values of democratic governance are being disregarded and trampled upon. Truth and the freedom of speech, press and assembly are being violated to ensure the political survival of the tenant in Malacañang. Except for Ferdinand Marcos, no other leader has wreaked more harm on our democratic institutions than Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. With just one proclamation, GMA set back the national effort to educate the youth on the responsibilities of citizenship.

For educators and students, it cannot be "business as usual" even if Proclamation 1017 has been lifted. We echo the response of Conrado de Quiros. (PDI, 2/27/06) "Protest. Defy. Fight back." We will do our share to defend our democratic way of life. This shall be our lasting legacy to the next generation.

—RENE C. ROMERO,
Philippine Normal University,
Taft Avenue, Manila

Back to basics

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

TWO OPTIONS: WE EITHER DO SOMEthing, or we shut up and just go back to work.

What can we do? Here are a few simple and feasible steps. We should go out of our way, and way beyond our comfort zones. We can organize ourselves and set up interest groups. Or we can set up programs that address social needs and not completely rely on the government. People in Payatas, for example, set up Paaralang Pantao to augment education needs in the area and in support of the public schools there.

We can fund charities. Filipinos abroad do this a lot. They organize themselves and adopt their respective hometowns.

In the end, all of us must be held accountable.—**Alain Ampongan (via e-mail)**

* * *

I understand it is quite frustrating to have all this massive corruption, but unfortunately 84 million Filipinos allow it to happen.

As an individual, all I can do is help my fellow citizens/families as an overseas Filipino worker (OFW). OFWs do it with huge sacrifices, because of opportunities abroad and the lack of them locally.

Perhaps, OFWs should get together and overthrow the government. Even basic fundamentals and ethics are corrupted and violated. Meanwhile, here are the OFWs working early and late hours to be able to send money home, because of the shortcomings in the home country.—**James Lorenzana (via e-mail)**

* * *

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's track record:

1. The Philippines became the No. 2 most corrupt country during her "honest" administration.
2. Her declaration of a state of national emergency confirmed the suspicion of many that she wants to cover up her various sins to the Filipino people.
3. She is an expert in the economics of cheating, stealing, lying, corruption, etc.
4. Her objective in declaring a state of national emergency is to keep the people away from the truth, from a full accounting of the billions she has withdrawn from the national treasury.
5. She should be inducted into the Hall of Fame for Lying and Corruption.—**Bing Eng Rich, New York (via e-mail)**

* * *

Whatever happened to the olden days, when national interest was on top of a political party's agenda? When people supported their governments? When revolution was the "right thing" to do? When democracy actually worked?

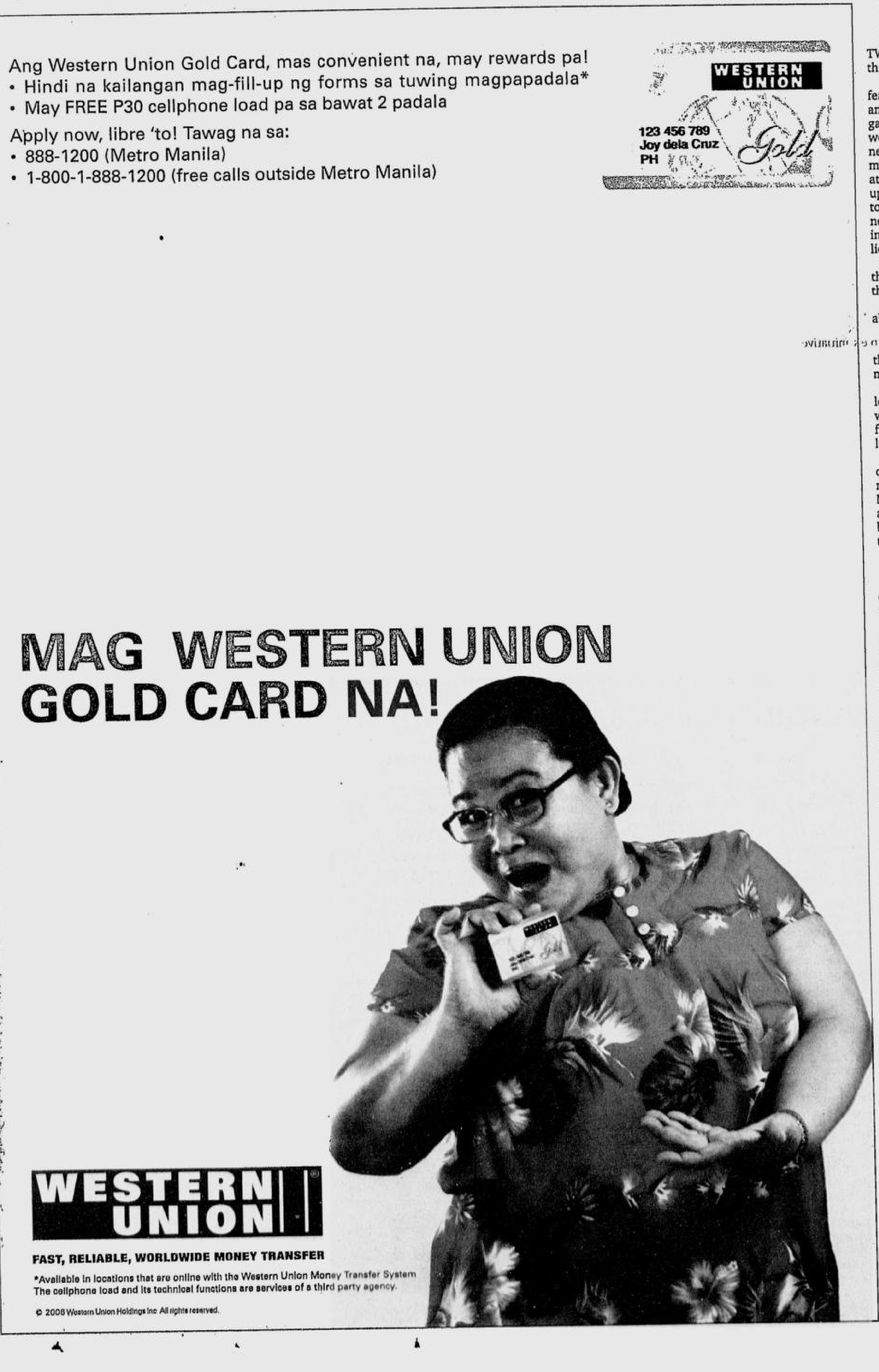
You know why it was simpler during Edsa I? Everyone had a common cause: to oust Marcos and to see the progress of the country. It was a huge objective, and everyone shared it, with a sense of newfound nationalism.

Nowadays, people still have that same goal. However, things have been muddled by different points of view on how to achieve it. A combination of politics, self-interest and lack of synergy has been the biggest enemy of progress.

If only people would put down their protest signs, keep their rifles, and the government would loosen its reins and open its ears, maybe we'll get a little closer to some kind of enlightenment.—**Eric Oandasan, California (via e-mail)**

* * *

As the Philippines is in great turmoil, I give my strong support to our President. The President is in a position to order the arrest of those party-list congressmen. First, they are not real congressmen. They used to be out in the streets, holding red banners and flags representing communism. Second, those congressmen don't know the law. They are just using people's money, and for what? To criticize the government. They are not working as congressmen.—**Menong Mateo, Guam (via e-mail)**



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Cha-cha gets going today

From page A1

Gathering signatures during the assemblies is the best option, as it will "ensure that these signatures are not manufactured or fabricated," the governor said.

Petilla disclosed that he gave P3,000 in "mobilization fund" to each of the province's more than 1,400 barangay chairs so they could muster the needed signatures. "The funds would come under our provincial aid to the barangays," he said.

At the national directorate meeting of the ruling Lakas party in January, President Macapagal-Arroyo pushed for a new Constitution and a parliamentary system by the middle of the year.

The Lakas national directorate rejected former President Fidel Ramos' proposal that Ms Arroyo cut short her term in 2007 to pave the way for a parliamentary government.

At the meeting, Speaker Jose de Venecia proposed a French-style transition parliamentary government under which Ms Arroyo would remain President but share some of her powers with a prime minister who would be the chief operating officer.

Lakas members also wanted to extend the terms of elected officials.

Out of this world

Besides the people's initiative, Malacañang is pushing for Con-Ass, according to maverick administration Sen. Joker Arroyo.

"This kind of a drive, they're all out of this world," the senator said at a briefing, referring to the twin moves.

"They want to amend the Constitution to stay in power and prolong their terms. It's not really because they want that a change in the Constitution would be better for the country. That's a lot of wishful thinking," he said.

He said the two-pronged approach to amend the Constitution were acts of desperation that would be challenged before the Supreme Court.

Arroyo predicted that allies of the President would press ahead with these two initiatives despite knowing that these would not get past both chambers of Congress.

He argued that the House of Representatives could not go it alone, convene Congress into a Con-Ass and amend the Charter without the Senate participation.

He said the senators unanimously adopted a resolution serving notice to their counterparts in the House that any amendment to the Constitution required the approval of both the Senate and the House.

In the case of the people's initiative, the senator pointed out that the high tribunal had ruled that the law supporting such an initiative was inadequate.

Legality doubtful

Congress passed Republic Act No. 6735, which provides for people's initiative, but only on laws passed by Congress and by local government units.

Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan, for his part, said that the people's initiative was of "doubtful legality," pointing out that people's initiative was available only to the people, not the government, and was designed to amend, not revise the Charter.

"In the end, I said these would be resolved by the SC," Arroyo said, pointing out that civic and non-organizations would surely question these before the high tribunal.

Five party-list representatives see something sinister about the barangay assemblies.

"A silent, sinister, illegal and unconstitutional people's initiative is on the move. It is organized by Malacañang through the DILG and the government foisted various perks—including term extension and the (release of the) internal revenue allotment—on local government officials to get their support," Akbayan Representatives Loretta Ann Rosales, Risa Baraquel and Mario Aguja, Anak Mindanao Rep. Mujiv Hataman and Partido ng Manggagawa Rep. Rene Magtubo said in a joint statement.

Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno saw nothing wrong with the convening of the assemblies.

"Anybody can speak and make presentations before these barangay assemblies. If they want, they can also make presentations against Charter change (Cha-cha)," Puno said.

Barangay assemblies are annual events in which communities get together to discuss issues confronting them.

Puno said the initiatives were being pushed by local government groups. "The department has nothing to do with them," he said.

Memo from Gonzalez

The party-list representatives said that aside from the memorandum, the DILG distributed the following:

- A memorandum from Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez to Speaker Jose de Venecia dated Jan. 24, 2006, saying that it is legal for officers and members of the civil service and public officials to campaign for Charter change.
- An instruction to verify the signatures gathered vis-à-vis the list of registered voters.
- A matrix explaining the differences between parliamentary and presidential forms of government.
- A sample format of the form for people's initiative, which includes the proposition for Charter change.
- A list of barangays per municipality with the total number of registered voters and the corresponding minimum percentage of voters that the signature campaign must obtain.
- A draft Commission on Elections petition proposing amendments to the 1987 Constitution through a people's initiative.

"That this is being done surreptitiously, in careful details and with blatant use of government resources and machinery reveals the desperation and bankruptcy of the Arroyo administration's Charter change agenda," the party-list lawmakers said.

"It proves once again that faced with a daunting opposition to the Cha-cha in the Senate, the government is willing to mangle the law and contort the Constitution in order to push for their agenda," they said.

The Promotion of Church People's Response in Negros Occidental asked the public to boycott the barangay assemblies.

The PCPR said the public should be wary of the intention of the organizers because De Venecia announced on Monday that the people's initiative for Charter change would be launched nationwide on Saturday.

Fr. Romeo Tagud, PCPR-Negros secretary general, said the people should be vigilant and oppose any ploy to extend Ms Arroyo's stay in power.

"With Charter change through a people's initiative the planned impeachment of Ms Arroyo by the opposition will be preempted. There will be no national election and she will stay in power in spite of questions on the legitimacy of her presidency," Tagud said.

Sample questions

In Camarines Sur, the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap) started gathering signatures for Charter change early this week.

Baao Mayor Mel Gaite, local president of the League of Municipalities in the Philippines, said Ulap was targeting 20 percent of the registered voters to sign on the petition form distributed to barangay chiefs on Tuesday.

A copy of the petition obtained by the INQUIRER contained items like province, legislative district, city/municipality, barangay, name and precinct number of the voter, address, birth date, signature and a space for verification.

One question reads: "Do you approve the amendment [to] Articles VI and VII of the 1987 Constitution, changing the form of government from the present bicameral-presidential to a unicameral-parliamentary system of government, in order to achieve greater efficiency, simplicity and economy in government and providing an Article XVIII as transitory provisions for the orderly shift from one system to another?"

Right below the proposition, the voter is enjoined to approve the proposed amendment coupled with the attestation that the voter's signature signified approval of the proposal.

"My signature herein, which shall form part of the petition for initiative to amend the Constitution, signifies my support thereof," said the concluding portion of the petition form.

Gaite said that upon the completion of the signature campaign, the accomplished petition forms would be sent to the Ulap secretariat.

Plebiscite in June

Gaite said the national plebiscite on the proposed constitutional amendments was planned to be conducted in June.

The DILG office in Eastern Visayas denied it had a hand in the signature campaign.

"Our participation is only to monitor the holding of the assembly by these barangays. Now, this reported signature campaign during the assembly is initiated by the local officials and not by the DILG," William Paler, DILG-8 chief, said.

Evelyn Trompeta, DILG director for Western Visayas, said the barangay assemblies set on Saturday were to discuss the "people's concerns as provided in the Local Government Code."

"There are no specific instructions to tackle Charter change; but it can be tackled if barangay officials feel it is a concern of their community," she said.

Commission on Election officials in Negros Occidental, however, revealed that the DILG had asked them for the lists of voters, in apparent preparation for the campaign for signatures needed for the Cha-cha people's initiative. *With reports from TJ Burgonio in Manila and Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Teacher in GenSan . . .

From page A1

Elizabeth Romano, principal of the New Mabuhay Elementary School in General Santos City, told reporters she was investigating a complaint filed by a number of parents against the Grade 6 teacher, Susana Quiambao.

In renewing the warning against unusual punishment, the DepEd also announced it had suspended and brought administrative charges against a teacher in connection with the death of a Grade 2 pupil allegedly forced to eat pencil shavings.

The DepEd said Brenda Elbambuena, a Grade 2 teacher at the Silangan Elementary School in Taguig, had been suspended for at least 90 days as she undergoes administrative proceedings on a charge of grave misconduct in the death of 9-year-old Delmar Redota. She faces dismissal if found guilty.

The girl died on March 15, one week after Elbambuena allegedly forced her and another pupil to eat pencil shavings which the girls had reportedly scattered while the teacher was sweeping her classroom's floor.

While the other girl faked eating the shavings, Redota swallowed them, the girl's mother told the INQUIRER.

Undressing

One of the complainants in General Santos City protested that Quiambao's methods had forced her niece to drop out of class after being made to take off her blouse, exposing her breasts.

Quiambao admitted to reporters that a number of students who had done poorly in recent exams had indeed undressed in front of the class—the boys removing their pants and the girls taking off their blouses. But she claimed the students did so voluntarily.

"They did it on their own volition," Quiambao said.

She said the issue had been blown out of proportion by the parents because the punishment had been agreed on by the class. She claimed it was even educational "because the students appeared like they were just doing a fashion show."

In their complaint, the parents said the punishment had caused their children emotional distress.

In her warning to school officials, Hidalgo said teachers who inflicted severe and harmful punishment on their pupils could face administrative and criminal charges.

"There is no excuse for enforcing cruel and harmful punishment no matter what the child's offense is. I, therefore, ask our teachers to be wary about child abuse and coercion in the classroom. Every teacher should first and foremost ensure the welfare and development of our children to equip them with values such as patience, tolerance and respect for others and we should be their models," Hidalgo said in a statement.

She reiterated the DepEd's policy against the use of corporal punishment in schools.

Cruel punishment

Hidalgo cited DepEd Order No. 92, issued in 1992, which prohibited the use of corporal, cruel and physically harmful punishment against any pupil.

On the other hand, the order said school officials and teachers had the right to impose "appropriate and reasonable disciplinary measures" in case of minor offenses and infractions of good discipline.

"School officials or teachers who are caught violating this order can be charged not only administratively but also criminally. DepEd will not hesitate to impose sanctions and file charges against those who commit abuse against our students," Hidalgo said.

She also appealed to students "to behave well because your teachers work so hard even after office hours to give you better education."

Report to DepEd

The DepEd chief also encouraged pupils and their parents to report policy violations and abuses directly to the DepEd's DTxT Action Center by texting DEPED FDBK to 2622 or through their hotline (02) 636-1663.

Filipino singer . . .

From page A1

performed. He said he knew he had connected with the audience and with his band. He was able to get them hooked from the beginning. He wasn't consumed by nervousness and anxiety because he really enjoyed performing. At a certain point, he said he was in a trance."

Only Asian

David was the only Asian among the 12 who made it to the finals. (At the March 18 semis, he sang "Waltz for Debby," "No More Blues" and "Skylark.")

He outdid Dan Barnett and Karlie Bruce of Australia, Torsten Goods of Germany, and Heidi Martin and Alison Wedding of the United States.

The finalists were scored on intonation, jazz vocal sound, time feel, interpretation and phrasing, innovation concept, improvisation and convincing stage presence.

The judges included Lee Gibson and Tina May, described as "two of Britain's finest jazz vocalists and educators," LIJC executive director Ursula Malewski, jazz vocalist Ian Shaw, and Pete Churchill and Adam Sieff, jazz consultants with Sony BMG Music International, Dune Records and DDE Records.

According to the LIJC, the contenders from Britain, Armenia, Austria, Australia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, the Philippines, Poland, Russia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine and the United States were of "an exceptionally high and professional standard."

Revival advocate

David, who is due to return to the Philippines on April 5, is expected to get a grand welcome in Pampanga where he is an advocate of Kapampangan culture revival, according to Robby Tantingco, director of the Center for Kapampangan Studies of the Holy Angel University.

A recipient of the 2004 Most Outstanding Kapampangan Award (in the arts, culture and music), David supported the revival of folk songs recorded in musical compact discs by the Crissot Foundation, ArtiSta Rita Foundation and the center, and their inclusion in his recordings and concerts.

Smart Communications president Manny V. Pangilinan helped fund David's trip to London.

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STL licenses went to 'jueteng' lords?

CAMP OLIVAS, PAMPANGA—SUSPECTED JUETENG lord Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda has reportedly obtained the license to operate the state-run Small Town Lottery (STL) in Angeles City, north of here, a police source said.

The source also said Pineda has applied for a license to operate the STL in the rest of Pampanga.

The source identified Pineda as one of the owners of the Lake Tahoe Gaming Corp. (LTGC), which got the license. His co-owner is a top local official in Angeles City, the source added.

Senior Supt. Policarpio Segubre, Angeles City police director, on Thursday confirmed that LTGC has been operating the STL for two weeks now.

But he said he did not know who owned the company. He said he got from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office a certification that LTGC got a license. It had the approval of PSCO chief Rosario Uriate, he said.

Romualdo Quiones, chief of the PCSO's STL project management office in Manila, said the names of Pineda and the local official were "not listed" in the LTGC corporate documents.

In a phone interview, Quiones said the PCSO gave the company a license to act as an "agent corporation" and not a franchise, which only Congress could give.

The close relative of Pineda in Lubao, Pampanga, did not return calls to confirm or deny Pineda's alleged stake in the company.

Another police source surmised that Pineda's name was being "floated" to "encourage" bettors to try the STL.

Although similar to jueteng in that two numbers are chosen for the winning combination, STL has not drawn a strong following, two former jueteng *cobradores* (collectors)-turned-STL sales agents in Angeles City said.

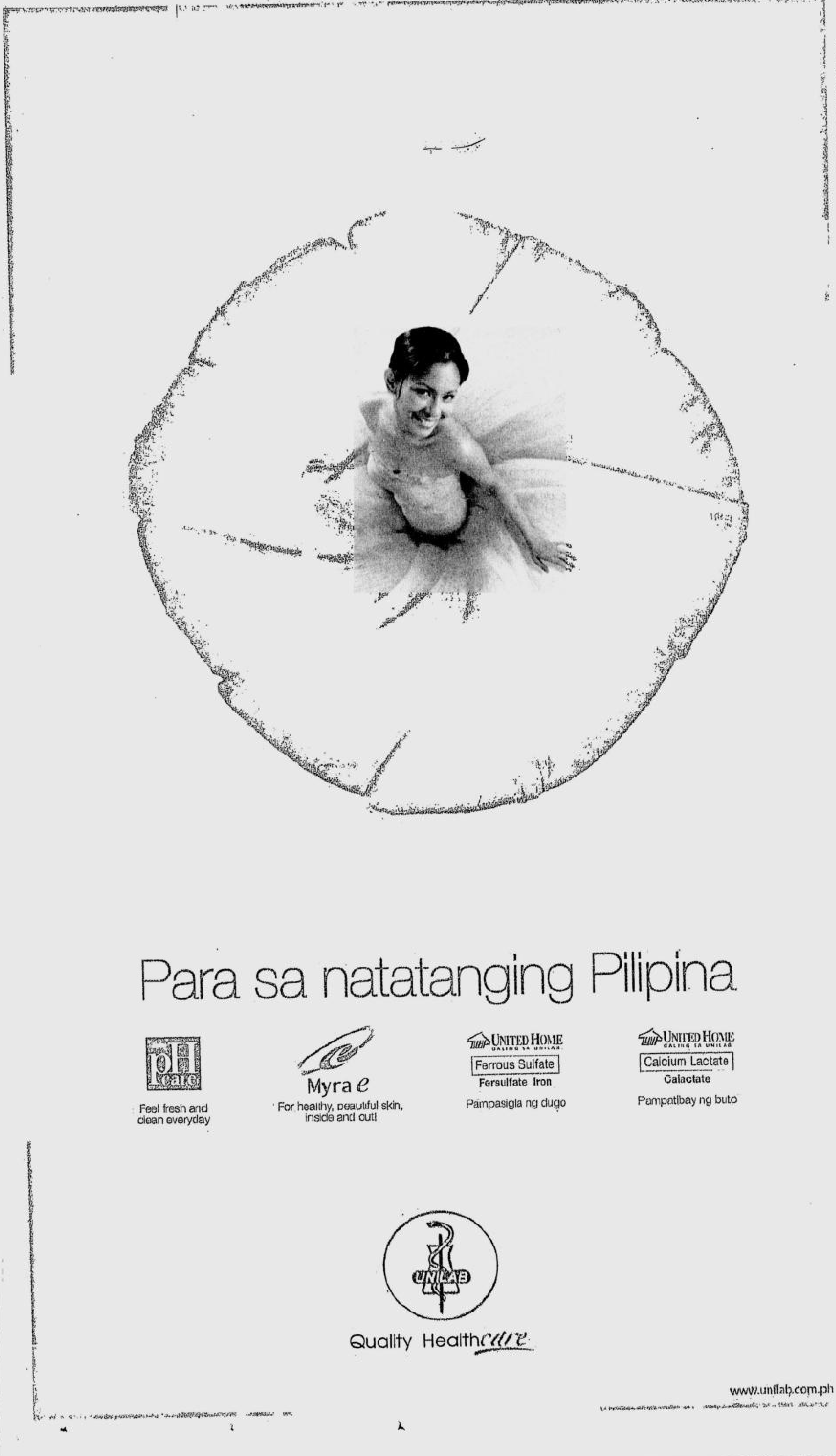
Quiones said the Sun Cove Corp. got the license to run the STL in Pampanga. The license to run the game in Bataan went to Sunset Bay Research and Marketing Group, he said.

Pineda was neither listed as owner nor stockholder of those companies, he said.

As of Thursday, Quiones said no applications had been approved in Bulacan, Tarlac, Nueva Ecija, Zambales and Aurora.

Senior Supt. Hernando Zafra, Bataan police chief, said while Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor and Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno had approved the one-year trial run of the game, police officials in Central Luzon opted to delay its start.

"It's held in abeyance until we get clear implementing rules from the national headquarters," Chief Supt. Alejandro Lapinid, Central Luzon police director, told the INQUIRER. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*



ROUNDUP

Murder suspect killed

ZAMBOANGA CITY—A notorious hired gun, who allegedly killed several government officials in Zamboanga del Sur, was killed in a shootout with soldiers on Monday, the military reported. Southern Command chief Maj. Gen. Gabriel Habacon said Bandino Albios had been hunted down by authorities for a string of murder charges filed against him. "He had standing warrants of arrest for the murder of some local officials in Dinas (town)," Habacon said. He said soldiers were trying to arrest Albios, but the suspect fired at them. *Julie Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Quake hits Leyte, Cebu

CEBU CITY—A slight tremor struck Leyte and Cebu early yesterday. The magnitude 3.3 quake was felt at Intensity 3 in Palompon, Leyte and Intensity 2 here, according to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology-Cebu. It was recorded at 12:59 p.m. and its epicenter was 33 km northwest of Ormoc City. It was tectonic in origin emanating from the Leyte segment of the Philippine Fault Zone, said Phivolcs science research specialist Rolando Montañez. *Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Curfew for minors

MAAGA NA LANG BUKAS..

LEGAZPI CITY—In a move to prevent juvenile delinquency and protect the young, the city council passed Tuesday an ordinance adopting curfew hours for minors (below 18 years old). The ordinance prohibits minors in the streets and public places from 10 p.m. until 4 a.m. the next day, Councilor Jim Andes said. He said the law would protect rather than suppress the rights of minors. Andes hoped that it would also address the city's problem on crimes involving children. *Edgar Alejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Support for NSO-ARMM

COTABATO CITY—The head of the National Statistics Office (NSO) in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao is drumming up foreign and local support to upgrade and make civil registration in the region more efficient. In an assessment report submitted to the national government, NSO-ARMM Director Commando Pilimpinas cited the need "to integrate" the Muslim Civil Registration System into the Civil Registry Law (RA 3753) in order to strengthen the "weak organizational structure, poor performance of some NSO personnel, lack of resources, inherent defects of the system and public apathy." Pilimpinas said the NSO would need financial assistance "because of the present limited resources." Zaldy Ampatuan said his administration could support some of the needs of the agency. *Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Amnesty for 4 ex-rebels

DAVAO CITY—Four New People Army (NPA) rebels, who recently yielded to authorities, were given amnesty and cash incentives for returning their firearms. Maj. Jose Cuerpo III, chief of the Army's 5th Civil Relations Group based in Camp Panacan here, said the former cadres received P18,000 cash each under the government's "Balik-Baril" program. They were identified as Rodolfo Betel, alyas Bodol; Edgar Enoch, alyas Takloy; Gerardo Embac, alyas Ramos and Jun-jun Labawan, alyas Jerry. They belonged to the NPA's Militia ng Bayan District Command. *Dennis Jay Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

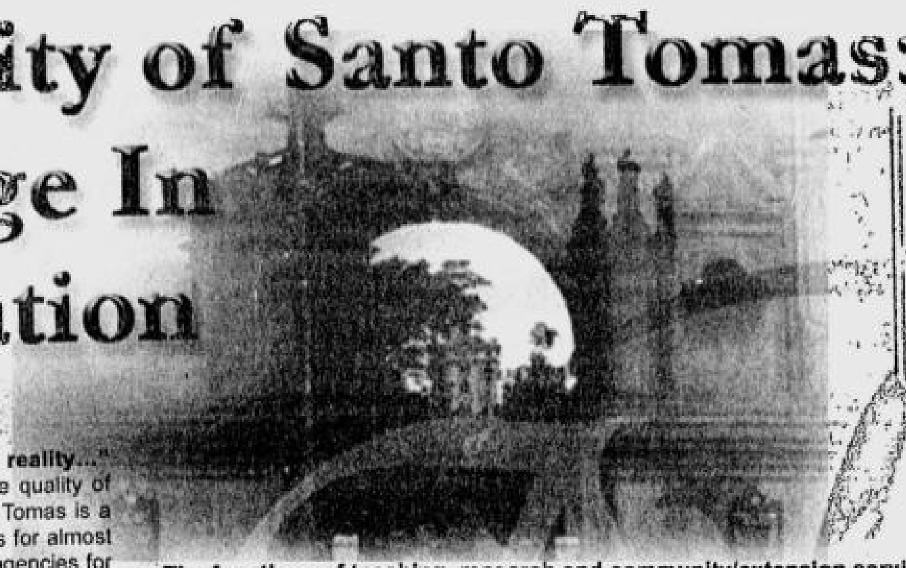
70 policemen for GenSan

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—At least 70 new policemen are expected to be deployed in the city to augment its police force. Councilor Eduaro Leyson III, chair of the city council's committee on police matters and peace and order, said the new policemen had graduated from the Central Mindanao regional training center in Barangay Lanton here. "I'm quite certain that 70 new policemen would be assigned here. We've been asking for this and we're glad it was finally approved," he said. The city has a population of 600,000. *Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

3 more vigilante killings

DAVAO CITY—Suspected members of the so-called Davao Death Squad (DDS) resumed their activities here after several weeks, executing three people. Their latest victim was identified as Serano Jimenez, a laborer from Agdao District. On Tuesday, two persons were also gunned down by motorcycle-riding suspects. The latest deaths brought to 46 the total number of murder cases involving vigilantes in the city, according to Chief Insp. Deciderio Cloribel, chief of the city police's investigation section. *Dennis Jay Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

PQA on the University of Santo Tomas: Enriching A Heritage In Total Quality Education



FOUNDED 1611

"The University of Santo Tomas... where greatness is a legacy and excellence is a reality..." this may sound like an advertising by-word, but the truth is, this a realistic description of the quality of education that one gets from this 395 year-old Dominican institution. The University of Santo Tomas is a story of an academic institution that has been serving the educational needs of the Philippines for almost four centuries now, and continues to be recognized by the government and other accrediting agencies for the high quality education that it offers. As a matter of fact, UST has been granted full autonomy by the CHED due to the excellence of its flagship programs.

Today, five years short of celebrating its fourth centennial, the Pontifical and Royal University of the Philippines once again proves that quality education is its trademark, with the bestowal of the Philippine Quality Award for Proficiency in Quality Management upon her, being one of the first academic institutions in the Philippines to be awarded such recognition.

Fr. Lana (third from left) receives PQA trophy from Raul Hernandez, Chair of PQA Board of Judges while UST Officials look on.

TRACING THE ORIGINS OF A QUALITY UNIVERSITY

The University of Santo Tomas is the oldest existing university in Asia and in terms of student population, the largest Catholic university in the world located in one campus. In 1605, Msgr. Miguel de Benavides, O.P., the third Archbishop of Manila, donated the amount of one thousand and five hundred pesos and his personal library collection which laid the foundation of the "seminary-college" in 1611 that was to become the University of Santo Tomas. *This was the beginning of tertiary education in the Philippines.*

The school was first called Colegio de Nuestra Señora del Santisimo Rosario and later renamed Colegio de Santo Tomas in memory of one of the foremost Dominican Theologians, St. Thomas Aquinas. In 1624, the Colegio was authorized to confer academic degrees in Theology, Philosophy and the Arts. On November 20, 1645, Pope Innocent X elevated the College to the rank of a university. In 1680, it was subsequently placed under the royal patronage. In 1785, University administration and students volunteered to defend Manila against the British invasion. In recognition of this act of exceptional loyalty, Spain's King Charles III granted it the title "Royal University". The title "Pontifical University" however, was given by Pope Leo XIII in September 17, 1902. In 1947, Pope Pius XII bestowed upon it the title "The Catholic University of the Philippines".

In 1927, with the continuing increase in enrollment, the University moved from Intramuros to its present site in Sampaloc, Manila which occupies an area of 21.5 hectares. Since its foundation, academic life in UST has been interrupted twice only: from 1898 to 1899, during the Philippine revolution against Spain; and from 1942 to 1945, during the Japanese occupation of Manila. UST was transformed into a concentration camp by the Japanese forces.

UST THROUGH THE YEARS

Recognition of the achievements of the University has come from the different parts of the world. News on these achievements brings respect and interest, and in a sense, some degree of importance on the University. That is why, world renowned personalities have always included the University as part of their itinerary among them, during the last three decades were: His Holiness Pope Paul VI and Pope John Paul II; His Royal Highness, King Juan Carlos I of Spain ; Mother Theresa of Calcutta ; and Pres. Jose Maria Aznar of Spain.

Owing to the assiduous pursuit of its mission to form young men and women, UST has produced distinguished alumni of national prominence and has played a pivotal role in the amelioration of the socio-political, religious, and economic condition of the country. Foremost of these alumni are heroes like Jose Rizal, Fr. Jose Burgos, Marcelo H. del Pilar, Emilio Jacinto, Antonio Luna, Apolinario Mabini and Rafael Palma. Four Philippine presidents also passed through the portals of this institution – Manuel L. Quezon, Sergio Osmeña, Jose P. Laurel and Diosdado Macapagal. Three vice presidents, three speakers of the house of representatives, senators, congressmen, numerous mayors and governors, and secretaries of the cabinet are Thomasians. UST has also contributed to the roster of Chief Justices of the Supreme Court.

A great number of bishops of the Philippine Catholic Church were nourished with the University's Thomistic philosophy. Up to this point, UST might be able to claim that its purest glory are the eight canonized saints namely, Guillermo Courter, Domingo Ibañez de Erquicia, Lucas del Espiritu Santo, Hioji de San Jacinto, Antonio Gonzales, who were all canonized on October 18, 1987; Pedro Almato, Vicente Liem de la Paz, Domingo Henares, all canonized on June 19, 1988.

Many Thomasians have become leaders and recognized men and women in the field of education, visual and performing arts, medicine, science and technology, sports, journalism, architects and scientists, not only well-known in the country but recognized abroad as well.

In a few more years, Thomasian presence will be felt in Sta. Rosa, Laguna and in General Santos City in the south. Its satellite campuses will soon emerge to further the cause of providing quality catholic education.

ORGANIZATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

UST's pursuit of excellence is evident in the way it performs its three main functions of teaching/instruction, research and community/extension services. The University sees to it that these are delivered to its stakeholders in a manner that truly speaks of the Thomasian character of competence, commitment and compassion.

UST Identity, Mission, and Vision

Identity. Competence, Compassion, and Commitment are the hallmarks that make the Thomasians stand out as they take the challenge to live up to the legacy bequeathed on them by the University of Santo Tomas, under the inspiration of St. Dominic, who preached the Word with compassion, and St. Thomas, who devoted his life in seeking the "truth in love" or "veritas in caritate".

Mission. The University of Santo Tomas, the Pontifical and Catholic University of the Philippines, a Dominican institution of learning, under the inspiration and patronage of St. Thomas Aquinas,commits itself to the pursuit of truth and to the preservation, advancement and transmission of knowledge in the arts and sciences, both sacred and civil, through the use of reason illumined by faith. The University affirms its role in the formation of men and women to become competent and compassionate professionals committed to the service of the Church, the nation and the global community.

Vision. By the year 2011, UST envisions itself as a center of excellence in various programs of teaching, an acknowledged expert in key areas of research in the pure and applied sciences, a leader in community/extension services, and the Center of Contextualized Theology in Asia. It also envisions for itself an extended physical presence beyond Manila, and a more functional networking mechanism with other universities/institutions.

Top: Very Rev. Fr. Tamerlane Lana, O.P. (Rector).
Second row from left: Rev. Fr. Juan Ponce, O.P. (Vice Rector), Rev. Fr. Melchor Sarla, O.P. (Vice Rector for Finance), Dr. Armando de Jesus (Vice Rector for Academic Affairs), Rev. Fr. Rodel Aligan, O.P. (Vice Rector for Religious Affairs), Rev. Fr. Isidro Abaño, O.P. (Secretary General).
Third row from left: Dr. Gloria D.C. Bernas (Asst. to the Rector for Research & Development), Engr. Alberto Laurito (Asst. to the Rector for Planning & Development), Dr. Evelyn Songco (Asst. to the Rector for Student Affairs), Dr. Ramon Sin (Asst. to the Rector for External Affairs).

The functions of teaching, research and community/extension services

Teaching – UST endeavors to engender graduates with a consuming passion for truth, prepared to be receivers as well as users of modern technology, and useful contributors to the community. UST offers a distinctive array of undergraduate and graduate programs and basic education in elementary and high school. UST's faculties, colleges, and institutes are --

1. College of Architecture; 2. Faculty of Arts and Letters; 3. College of Commerce; 4. College of Accountancy; 5. College of Education; 6. Faculty of Engineering 7. College of Fine Arts and Design; 8. Conservatory of Music ; 9. College of Nursing 10. Faculty of Pharmacy; 11. College of Rehabilitation Sciences; 12. College of Science; 13. Faculties of Ecclesiastical Studies; 14. Faculty of Civil Law ; 15. Faculty of Medicine and Surgery ; 16. Graduate School; 17. Institute of Physical Education & Athletics; 18. Institute of Religion.

Research – UST aspires to contribute substantially to advancing the frontiers of knowledge. The various research fields of the University are grouped into five flagships namely, Arts and Humanities, Education and Social Sciences, Science and Technology, Health Sciences, and Sacred Sciences. The Thomas Aquinas Research Center has been built solely for the research function of the University.

Community and Extension Services – UST lends itself to community and extension services that are truly Christian and educative in character, and contributing to the development of an updated and empowered community. UST has its Community Development Program under the Office for Community Development. It is institutionalized in the TOMAS Program Pillars - 1. Training and Education for Capacity Development; 2. Organizing for Empowerment; 3. Management for Program Development; 4. Advocacy, Research and Documentation; 5. Spirituality of Transformation.

THE QUEST FOR THE PHILIPPINE QUALITY AWARD

With the leadership of the Father Rector through the Office of Planning and Development (OP&D), anticipating the need for performance metrics to support continuous improvement systems in AY 2002-2003, facilitated the creation of Key Result Areas (KRAs) and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) in the implementation and monitoring of the Ten Directional Areas of the Strategic Plan of UST for 2011 which were reported in the Rector's Report of AYs 2002 to 2005. These reports share with the public the efforts and improvements made by the university in the areas of: Identity, Teaching, Research, Community and Extension Services, Human Resources, Physical Resources, Growth and Expansion, Financial Resource, Public Presence, and Information Technology.

AY 2002-2003 also saw the phenomenal growth in the IT infrastructure of the University through the creation of a new Computer Center, the Santo Tomas e-Service Providers (StePS).

In order to serve the learning needs of UST students, and to bring web-based learning to the Thomasian Community, the Educational Technology Center initiated an innovative e-Learning Access Program (e-LeAP) for institutional implementation beginning with the second semester of AY 2002-2003. Using the powerful IT infrastructure of StePS, UST's e-LeAP now delivers Web-Enhanced Courses and Fully Online Courses to students, as well as online communities for e-Guidance, University Planning and Events Management, and Student and Alumni Organizations through the use of the Blackboard Leaning System and Community Portal, the most widely used Learning System and Community Portal, the most widely used Learning Management System in the United States. UST is the only user of the Blackboard Enterprise version in the Philippines. The facility enables faculty members to interact with students after classroom meetings through online announcements, discussion boards and chat sessions, virtual classrooms, online assignments and exams, and automated grade book.

UST administrators and PQA Team members during the PQA Award ceremonies on March 15, Dusit Hotel.

***From left:** Engr. Delfin Jacob, Engr. Alberto Laurito, Vice Rector Fr. Juan Ponce, O.P., Rector Fr. Tamerlane Lana, O.P. (with trophy), Vice Rector for Finance Fr. Melchor Saria, O.P., Vice Rector for Academic Affairs Dr. Armando de Jesus, Mr. Rodolfo Clavio.*
***Standing from left:** Dr. Cristina Castro-Cabral, Ms. Giovanna Fontanilla, Ms. Monalissa Perez, Asst. Dean Alicia Aguinaldo, Dr. Helena Cabrera, Ms. Jocelyn Agcaoili, Ms. Virginia Sembrano, Engr. Jose Carlos Lugay.*

The movement for Total Quality Management (TQM) started through the Office of the Vice Rector, Rev. Fr. Juan V. Ponce, O.P. The program aims to instill productivity and quality consciousness among UST's academic and non-academic employees, create awareness on how TQM could be linked and applied in the various activities of the University in order to attain customer-focused services, assess areas where the University should focus on improvement activities, and implement quality and productivity programs and activities that will strengthen and complement TQM applications in the academe.

The Rector is the TQM Champion who provides the overall program thrust and directions while the Vice-Rector is the TQM Operations Chair who oversees the implementation of the program. A Technical & Support Group and a Core Group assist the Rector and the Vice Rector. An executive orientation was conducted and an extensive training was given to provide the members with knowledge and skills on the basic Quality and Productivity tools and techniques, TQM and PQA.

UST recognizes its employees as its most valuable assets - providers of excellent service to its customers. Hence, UST saw the need for employees' total participation in the improvement process through continuous education, training and development. To be able to do this, UST introduced the Quality Team (QT) program. To sustain the program, TQM Quality Workplace Audits are being conducted every semester to check on the implementation of TQM principles and Good Housekeeping or 5S guidelines in all departments and colleges for which faculty, staff, and students are continuously being trained to conduct.

PQA IN VIEW OF 2011

Having been granted the Philippine Quality Award, the University of Santo Tomas brings into its fourth hundred year of establishment in 2011 the seal of approval of its proficiency in quality management. From 2006 onwards, UST will have to maintain this quality to be able to continue with its mission in providing Filipinos with quality catholic education. ■

Recognition for Proficiency in Quality Management

Impartiality sought in mine spill probe

LEGAZPI CITY—A RANKING OFFICIAL OF the Albay provincial government appealed to an investigating body to be impartial in its work in determining the cause of two mine spills from the operations of the Lafayette Philippines Inc. (LPI) in Rapu-Rapu town.

Vice Gov. James Calisin, in a testimony made before the Rapu-Rapu Fact Finding Commission (RFC), said he was for responsible mining.

He presented a copy of the Environment Code of Albay that he authored in 2003.

He earlier questioned the independence of the RFC after President Macapagal-Arroyo appointed Bishop Arturo Bastes as its chair. Bastes is campaigning for a stop to mining in Rapu-Rapu.

Bastes, in response to Calisin, invited the governor to attend the hearings of the RFC to find out how independent the commission is.

A class suit filed by lawyer Gil Gojol against LPI has been raffled to judges of the Regional Trial Court in Sorsogon City.

Gojol said he filed the case representing some 3,000 fishermen who claimed they were deprived of livelihood following a fish scare that was blamed on the Rapu-Rapu mine spills.

The case went to the sala of RTC Branch 52 Judge Honesto Villamor, he said.

Albay Gov. Fernando Gonzalez denied reports that there were skin diseases attributed to the LPI mining operations.

He said the milling process, which was temporarily stopped, was resumed only after defects in its facilities had been corrected by LPI.

Witnesses earlier testified that sacks of dead fish were recovered near the LPI's mine tailings discharge areas after the Oct. 31 spill.

But Legazpi City Mayor Noel Rosal said the demand and supply of fish and marine products coming from Rapu-Rapu Island did not change even with the reported fish kill.

Urban poor leader Jun de la Torre told the RFC that there was no need for an independent body to investigate the effects of LPI's mining operations, saying "the fish kills speak for itself."

Charles Avila, RFC vice chair, said they would not pay attention to the rallies and lobbies.

"We will only pay attention to the public in a proper forum to accomplish our job," he said.

The RFC was created by Ms Arroyo through Administrative Order No. 145. *Edgar Alejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

General sees more clashes with NPA

GENERAL SANTOS City—A ranking military officer yesterday said he was expecting more clashes to occur between his troops and New People's Army (NPA) rebels in Sarangani.

Brig. Gen. Alfredo Cayton, commander of the Army's 601st Infantry Brigade, told the INQUIRER that an intensified operation was launched in Malungon, Sarangani after Tuesday's clash in Tamban Village where two rebels were killed.

Cayton said the NPA rebels, under the Front Committee 71 operating in Sarangani province and General Santos, were caught unaware when soldiers attacked their camp in Sitio Kamugna.

He said the heavy exchange of gunfire lasted for about 15 minutes.

After the gunfight, Cayton said the soldiers recovered the bodies of the slain bandits and two rifles.

He said the encounter in Tamban was the off-shoot of an operation launched by his unit after intelligence reports about communist guerrillas massing up had been confirmed.

He said the assembly could be part of a major tactical offensive the NPA has planned in time for its founding anniversary on March 29.

In Davao City, a councilor asked the military to stop using civilians as "baits" in the government's anti-insurgency campaign in Paquibato District.

Paquibato is a known lair of communist rebels in Southern Mindanao.

Councilor Nenita Orcullo also urged the disarming of members of indigenous communities, who had allegedly been provided firearms by the military.

"(The military) cannot deny this. This is a fact. The arming of the *lumad* is the primary reason why the situation of Paquibato is volatile now. For this I am urging the military to immediately pull out their forces and disarm the *lumad*," Orcullo said. *Aquiles Zonio and Jeffrey Tupas, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

PETS DENNIS JAY SANTOS/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU
Ducklings are sold for P5 each on a street in Davao City. The birds are being sold as pets by this street vendor.

Media group assails Army order of battle

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—NEGROS JOURnalists yesterday protested the inclusion of a radio news director here in the Armed Forces' order of battle and called on AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga to remove his name from the list and ensure his safety and unhampered practice of his profession.

Article 3, the alliance of Negros journalists, was reacting to the inclusion of the name of Julius Mariveles in a list of "top leaders" of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army drawn up by the AFP Central Command (Centcom).

Article 3 is an alliance of the Negros Press Club, Congress of Active Media Practitioners (Camp), Correspondents, Broadcasters and Reporters Association-Active News Service (Cobra-Ans) and the National Union of Journalists in the Philippines (NUJP)-Negros.

Mariveles, an Article 3 convenor, is the news director of dyEZ Aksyon Radyo-Bacolod of the Manila Broadcasting Co. He is also secretary general of the Cobra-Ans and an officer of the Negros Media Council for Press Freedom.

Mariveles yesterday also called on the AFP to strike his name off its Central Command Order of Battle for the first semester of 2005 because he was never secretary general of the party-list Bayan Muna as it claimed.

Mariveles said he was a secretary general of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan or Bayan-Negros but he has been a full time working journalists since 2003, when he was employed by MBC's Aksyon Radyo-Bacolod news director.

"It is queer that despite the numerous interviews I have conducted with Army officials themselves, their intelligence report last year has never been updated. I could only hope that this is a case of oversight or failure to update," he said.

He said it was impossible for him to be with Bayan and working for Aksyon Radyo at the same time. "I am aware that it is unethical to be a working journalist and an official at the same time of a political party," he said.

Article 3 in its statement demanded that the intelligence services of both the military and police rigorously review their order of battle.

The list, a copy of which was obtained by Article 3, was prepared early this year and identified Mariveles as secretary general of the party-list group Bayan Muna in Negros and among the leaders of the revolutionary movement.

Article 3 said it has reasons to believe the continued inclusion of Mariveles' name on the list is more than a case of mere oversight.

"Given the continued threats against press freedom from this administration since even before President Macapagal-Arroyo declared her short-lived state of national emergency and the growing list of activists murdered in the country, we worry that, unless rectified immediately, the inclusion of Mr. Mariveles in the list constitutes a continuing clear and present danger to his life and to his unhampered practice of our profession," Article 3 said.

"Sa ating mga ina ng tahanan, napakahalaga ang kalusugan ng ating pamilya.

Pagdating sa gamot, buo ang aking tiwala sa Ritemed. De-kalidad na, magaan pa sa bulsa. Napagkakatiwalaan dahil gawa ng Unilab."

Ma. Consuelo Z. Garcia
MA. CONSUELO Z. GARCIA, M.D.
President,
Private School Health Officers' Association

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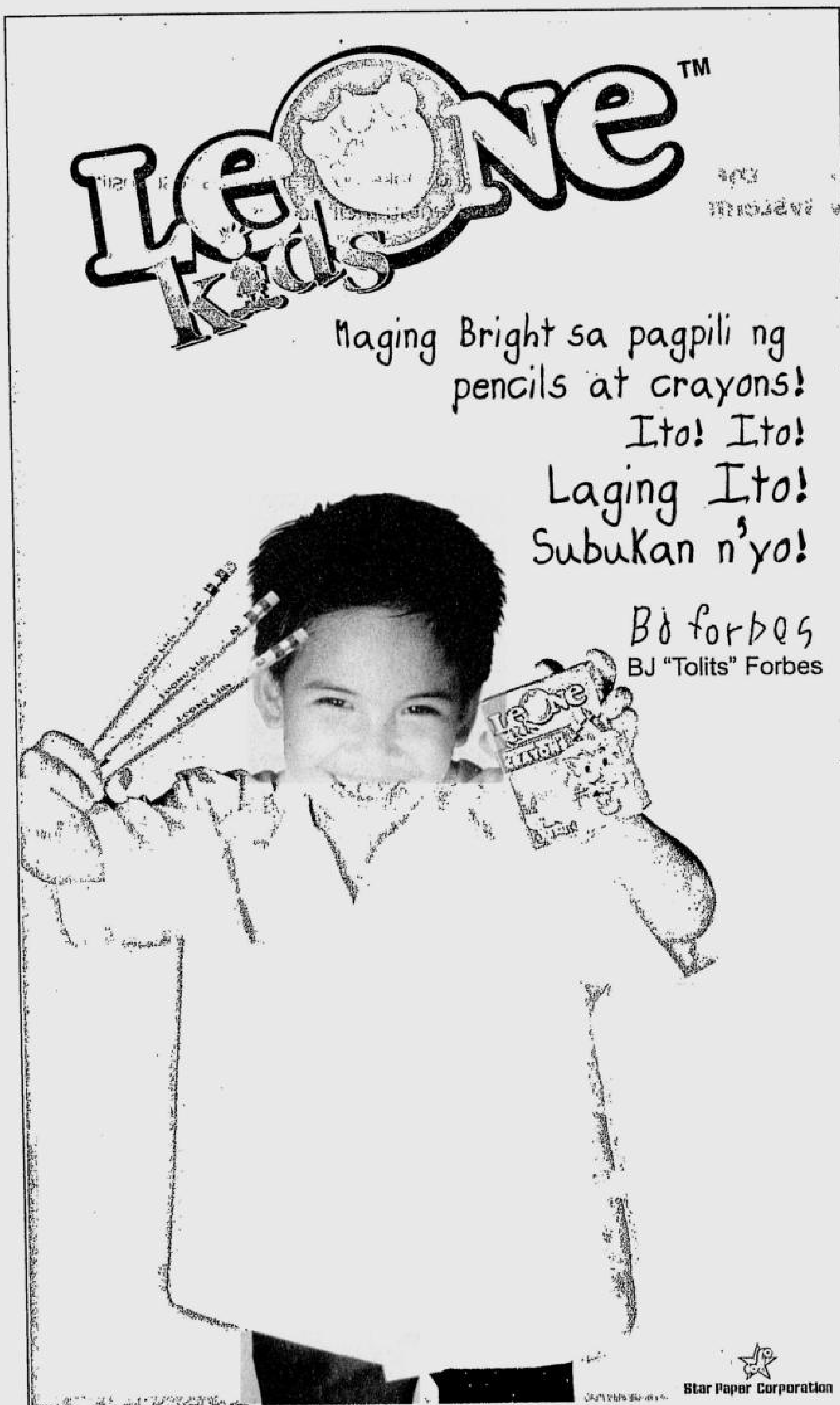

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TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

HARVEST TIME
A group of farmers in Asingan, Pangasinan harvest rice plants to prepare for a second cropping. Water irrigation levels are low due to onset of the dry season.

Church leaders back Pangasinan cop chief

LINGAYEN, PANGASINAN—CHURCH LEADers, government officials and businessmen have called for the reinstatement of the province's police director, describing his relief as "unfair."

Senior Supt. Alan Purisima was relieved as Pangasinan police director following the Philippine National Police's three-strike policy on illegal gambling.

The policy means that if three towns are found to have illegal gambling operations, the provincial director will be removed from his post.

Archbishop Oscar Cruz, anti-illegal gambling crusader, said Pangasinan had been jueteng-free because of Purisima and "therefore I find it quite unfair that the mere presence of certain videos will mean his relief."

He said it was "pity that a provincial director should be relieved because of a few video machines."

"There had been a good number of machines confiscated and destroyed by the provincial and town police in the past months and the work must be on-going," he said.

Cruz asked Camp Crame officials "on behalf of the good people of Pangasinan, to reevaluate their decision."

Seven video machines were found in Urdaneta City and the towns of Bautista and Alcala by the PNP's anti-illegal gambling task force last February.

Gov. Victor Agbayani also questioned Purisima's relief and asked Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno to have him reinstated.

He asked why Purisima's relief should be based on the report of the task force whose four members were arrested earlier on charges of involvement in extortion in San Manuel town. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Backpackers suffer culture shock in jail

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—ELEVEN BACKpackers, who have been accused of raiding a military armory in Mankayan town on Feb. 10 with suspected communist rebels, have been giving the Benguet provincial jail and its inmates their own version of culture shock.

Jail officials told the INQUIRER that two of the backpackers had complained about being punched by some inmates because their "punk" hairstyle and music did not sit well with the inmates' lifestyle.

The backpackers have drawn public attention because the Benguet provincial police identified them as New People's Army members, despite the fact that they wear nose rings and style their hair in dreadlocks and Mohawks.

"We are treated well here. But two of [our crew] showed up with black eyes because they were beaten up in their cell by the detainees. I don't know what happened. They have been transferred to a new cell," said Rundren Berloize Lao, 24, of Davao City.

'Invasion'

On Thursday, both the jailhouse and the Benguet Justice Hall were disturbed by the "invasion" of 30 teenagers wearing "punk-styled" black shirts and graffiti-laden pants, to show their support at their arraignment.

The arraignment did not proceed. Lawyer Pablito Sanidad, national chair of the Free Legal Assistance Group (Flag), and officials of the Cordillera Human Rights Alliance, asked Judge Benigno Galacgac of the regional trial court here to quash the charges.

The lawyers said the prejudice inside and outside the Benguet jailhouse was ironic because it was also prejudice against the backpackers' appearance, which caused authorities to charge them with participating in the armory raid.

The February attack killed one soldier and two members of the Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit.

"How can you believe the NPA would recruit these fellows? They'd become a headache for the rebels," said human rights lawyer Noe Villanueva.

Eyewitnesses' accounts

Senior Supt. Villamor Bumanglag, Benguet provincial police director, said their case would depend on eyewitnesses' accounts that placed the backpackers at the raid.

The youths, including a 15-year-old girl from Marikina City and a 15-year-old boy from Pasig City, were arrested in Buguias town. They had hitched a ride to Sagada town in Mt. Province.

They have since become popular online. Supporters organized an online petition to "free the Sagada 11," which already solicited 1,354 signatures from sympathizers in the country, Japan and the United States.

A self-proclaimed group of hackers, who call themselves Justice League of the Internet, threatened to hack the websites of the Philippine National Police in retaliation for the backpackers' arrest.

CHRA officials said it is the outpouring of support from youths all over the country, which has kept the detainees hopeful about their release. *Vincent Cabreza and Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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Sigaw Ng Bayan!

1. *Yes* to amending the 1987 Constitution!

We are tired of being told to defer amending the Charter to an undetermined future. The time to do it is *now*—and to postpone the effort would be fatal to our democracy. We need to achieve greater political stability—to eliminate the extremists' threat to grab power and rule by decree through a junta; we need to improve government by making it efficient and less costly to operate. And we must propel the economy to a sustainable and competitive level of growth—so that we can lift our people from poverty and build a modern middle class.

2. *Yes* to a shift to the parliamentary system!

The presidential system with a bicameral legislature has failed the Filipino people. The record of the past 60 years of presidential government does not lie: the growing rural and urban slums, the widening economic gap between rich and poor, the falling quality of health care and other basic services, the deteriorating quality of education. The biggest proof of all is this: Eight million Filipinos have left to seek opportunities abroad. Now is the time to discard what has *not* worked for us, and to adopt what will work, as the experience of successful nations prove. A comparison with our neighbors in Southeast Asia shows that the Philippines has lagged behind in development. Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand—all with parliamentary governments—are all wondrously prosperous. Of the top 20 rich nations in the world—including those of Europe, North America and Asia—all except the United States are under parliamentary governments.

3. *Yes* to the abolition of the Senate and the House of Representatives!

The two houses of Congress are the symbols of the failings of the bicameral presidential system. An investigative report in the *Manila Standard Today's* March 21, 2006 issue estimates that the Senate spends an *incredible* P668.4 million in taxpayers' money to approve just one bill! This amount could instead go into the building of badly-needed classrooms and health-care centers in rural Philippines. The same report said the House of Representatives approved more than 400 bills—20 of them of national application—in the past year, but all for nothing without Senate action on these bills. In our country, the two-chamber legislature produces only monumental paralysis in law-making and a waste of people's money that we can no longer afford.

4. *Yes* to creating a unicameral parliament!

The experience of successful parliamentary governments in Europe and Asia proves that a unicameral parliament is the most efficient way to craft laws and policies to drive growth. The party in power runs the programs of government; the opposition party provides the checks and balances essential for the survival of representative democracy. This is the type of government we want—one based on platform and programs and *not* on celebrity or popularity. A one-house parliament in a parliamentary system requires party discipline and adherence to party ideals. It will eliminate opportunistic party-switching and make political parties responsible and transparent in their actions.

5. *Yes* to a people's initiative to amend the Constitution!

After two months of intensive consultations with our people, we have become absolutely certain that Filipinos want a shift to the parliamentary system of government. This is the cry everywhere—both in our big cities and in our small-town barangays. The Senate and the House of Representatives still cannot agree on how to amend the Charter. They cannot continue to disagree on this issue until kingdom come.

When leaders refuse to lead, we have one last resort in seeking Charter amendments: our people must take the lead!

When politicians refuse to act out of blind ambition, the Filipino people are ready to take action!

We are for people's initiative to amend our constitution directly. We call on our people in every barangay to support this.

Bangon tayo! Amiendahan ang Constitution. Ito ang sigaw ng bayan!

Sigaw ng Bayan Movement!

Alberto Ong Jr., **Alliance for Peace and Improvement (API)** • John Carlo Masajo, **Youth for Peace and Development** • Sheik Sirad Manggis, **Filipino Muslim Democratic Alliance** • Rey Campanera, **Alyansa ng mga Benipisaryo-Baseco** • Efren de Luna, ACTO Transport Groups • Forting Yabut, **Masa Bansa** • Ruth Vasquez, **Babae Para sa Kaunlaran** • Adel Lazaro, **Akbay Pinoy (OFW) Inc.** • Benny Casaria, **United Filipino Seafarers** • Leticia Granito, **Kaisambayan** • Jose Moreno Jr., **Kilos Masa** • Miguel Manota, **Kamanggagawa** • Dr. Dante P. Quines, **Monitoring Group of the Philippines** • Rolando Montiel, **Kilusan ng Mamamayan Para Sa Matatag ng Republika** • Datu Amerol Ambing, **National Muslim for Peace and Order Council** • Basis S. Datu-Linam, **Muhader Action for Progress and Peace** • Danilo Teope, **Lakas Pinoy-NCR** • Orlan Ravelas, **Southern Tagalog Alliance for Genuine Empowerment and Services-Calabarzon** • Edmundo Mission, **Alyansa ng Mamamayan ng Rizal** • Joven Pajora, **PAROLA** • Sergio Tolentino Jr., **World War II Legionaries of the Philippines** • Gerald Dequina, **Makabagong Peace for Progress Movement** • Danny Mangahas, **Tau Gamma Phi-Quezon City Council** • Peter Esrael, **Tagumpay ng Mamamayan ng Navotas, Inc.** • Tessie Lagma-Balboa, **Mga Bituin ng Kahapon, Ngayon at Kailanman** • Elias Beltran, **Angat Antas Kabuhayan Pilipino Movement** • Ace Balahajay, **Kongreso ng Maralitang Pilipino** • Rony Reomalis, **Samahang Nagkasia sa Pampanga** • Cris Lacsamana, **People's Active Determination for Equality Rights** • Amy Azarcon, **Samahan ng Mga Ina sa Cavite** • Zeny Tobias, **Southern Tagalog Council of Women Cooperatives**

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OPERATIONS BACK TO NORMAL

Oil overflow alarms Pandacan residents

By Tina G. Santos and Margaux C. Ortiz

GASOLINE OVERFLOWED FROM A STORage tank of Caltex Philippines Thursday morning, alarming residents living near the Pandacan oil depot.

A source from the Pandacan Depot Services Inc., who requested anonymity saying he was not authorized to discuss the incident, said the gasoline came from a pipeline in a storage farm inside the depot. Caltex officials were not immediately available for comment.

But he added the problem was immediately contained, and there was no oil spill outside the depot or the Pasig River. He said oil companies used highly sophisticated equipment and implemented safety measures to avoid accidents.

The depot on the southern bank of the Pasig River near the Nagtahan Bridge is maintained by the country's three big oil companies. It consists of large manufacturing and storage facilities for petrochemicals that are connected by pipelines all the way to refineries in Batangas province.

Manila Fire Marshal Pablito Cordeta, who checked the situation, said it was not an oil spill. "One of the tanks of Caltex overflowed but only into the band wall, which is like a basin at the base of the tank. This is where excess gasoline goes," Cordeta said. The tank contained some 24,000 barrels of ordinary gasoline, he added.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza said the Caltex management denied there was an oil spill. "There was just a slight overflow of gasoline. According to them depot operations were normalized afterwards," Atienza said.

Domingo Seposo, chair of Barangay 836 Zone 91, said the incident might have been caused by negligence of personnel in charge of the operations.

Suspended

Authorities said depot operations were suspended temporarily and trucks of fillings stations were not allowed to enter. Electrical devices were shut down. Despite the authorities' assurance that there was no cause for alarm, many residents nearly panicked when the news spread around the community around 7 a.m.

"We have been urging the government to do something about the oil depot. We are always afraid it would blow up," said Nenita Salve, 56.

Firefighters said a carelessly thrown lighted cigarette could trigger an explosion and start a fire in the densely populated Pandacan area. They said liquid fuel could also spill to the Pasig. The firefighters added that Metro Manila did not have the equipment to put out fires triggered by accidents at the depot.

"Accidents will happen no matter how careful we are. The Pandacan depot is an accident waiting to happen. The repercussions are beyond imagination," they said.

The city government, particularly the City Council, is drafting on an ordinance changing the area's classification from industrial.

Under the Manila Comprehensive Land Use Plan and Zoning Ordinance of 2005, the Pandacan area may be reclassified into commercial/residential, making it unsuitable for the depot's operations.

"The health, safety and welfare of the public, particularly of residents in the area, is our utmost concern," Councilor Lourdes Isip-Garcia said in an earlier interview. She said they are also concerned about the depot's proximity to Malacañang Palace. The Pandacan oil depot supplies around 50 percent of Luzon's fuel needs and around 82 percent of Metro Manila's gasoline and diesel requirements. It is considered vital to national security and is heavily guarded.

Precaution

Supt. Rogelio Rosales, Manila Police District (MPD) Station 10 chief, said the Pandacan incident "was just part of the depot's regular operations." He told the INQUIRER residents complained of nausea caused by an overpowering smell of oil.

Rosales said security officer Oscar dela Cruz told police the container that was being refilled probably still had some oil left, causing it to overflow. "But there was a catch basin at the bottom of the container that ensured there was no spill," Rosales said.

"Depot officials said overflowing was a normal occurrence, and they had safety precautions to prevent any untoward scenarios," Rosales said, adding the incident lasted only 10 minutes.

The police official said the MPD's Task Force Pandacan was ensuring the safety of the area and surrounding barangay. Three round-the-clock checkpoints were maintained near the depot and the inner and outer perimeters were patrolled regularly.

WHAT'S INSIDE

MMDA
on the road!
SIDEWALKS ARE FOR PEOPLE

- Half of MMDA's 2006 budget goes to waste /A21
- Tug-of-war over recovered cash in Ultra stampede moves to court /A21
- Don't drag family in case, Umale's wife tells Chavit /A21
- Man dies after setting bed on fire /A21

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Spare family, Umale's wife tells Chavit

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.
and Norman Bordadora

SPARE THE FAMILY.

Clarissa Umale, wife of slain businessman Leonardo Umale, asked yesterday Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson not to drag their family into the case.

"I won't give Chavit the opportunity to malign my husband and my family," she told reporters. She was reacting to Singson's statement that she should also be investigated in connection with her husband's murder because Umale had a first wife, with whom he had two sons and two daughters. Clarissa admitted her husband and his first wife were together for 15 years. She married Umale after he and his first wife separated.

"For the record I have not met her (first wife) and I have no intention of meeting her," Clarissa said, wondering why Singson dragged the family into the case. Umale's first wife Magdalena Santos arrived from abroad on Sunday after learning about what happened. She told the INQUIRER yesterday she also wanted to monitor personally the investigation and prayed for justice for her former husband. "We just hope... they would spare our children from intrigues," Magdalena said.

She was reluctant to give interviews, fearing the family would be put at the center of the controversy. She confirmed Clarissa's statement that they had not met. Magdalena left the country after she separated from Umale, but three of their children, including Tintin, stayed with their father.

Tintin, 30, told the INQUIRER she was just three years old when her parents separated. She said she and her siblings grew up with their stepmother, with whom Umale had two more daughters.

"We did not have any problems... Our stepmother treated us like her own children," Tintin said. She welcomed the arrival of her mother and sister Cathy, who she said had not seen her father "for a very long time." Clarissa said Magdalena had not seen her former husband and children "for about 26 years."

Umale was shot by four armed men as he was about to enter his Pearl Plaza Building in Pasig City last week with Tintin and Clarissa. Clarissa said Singson was behind the murder. Denying the allegation, Singson cited nine cases that he said might have motivated the killing. He also said one of Umale's sons was involved in the Valle Verde Gang, an alleged group of car thieves.

Clarissa defended her stepson, saying he was cleared of any involvement in the case. "Why would he do that? We have many cars. And all our cars are registered," Clarissa said.

Singson denied Clarissa's claim that he was the only one with an axe to grind against the businessman. "If I have 100 enemies, Umale has 1,000," he said.

PERFECT SPOT
Chess players find that even the sidewalk along Tejeron Street in Makati City could be an ideal spot to play the game.
EDWIN BACASMAS

Fight over recovered cash at Ultra stampede moves to court

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE TUG-OF-WAR FOR THE P49,000 rescuers recovered from a stampede victim in Pasig City last month is moving to a courtroom.

The family of Virginia Javierto, 81, who was killed with her daughter during the stampede at the Philsports Arena, is preparing charges against the family of stampede victim Aurora Soriano, 56, to whom Pasig City Mayor Vicente Eusebio handed the recovered cash.

"They (Soriano family) refuse to return our mother's money. We will file estafa and perjury charges against them," Javierto's son Rizaldy told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Eastern Police District investigation head Chief Insp. Rolly Vilar had declared the Soriano family "wrongly received" the cash. Rizaldy and three of his siblings went to the police station yesterday to reiterate their claim.

PO2 Arman Valenzuela said, when they called up Soriano's daughter Shirley yesterday, she said she would just face the Javierto family in court.

"Shirley said they already had a lawyer," Valenzuela added. Shirley told the police earlier they had already spent half of the amount.

Pasig City Rescue volunteer Candy Lacno found the money in the pocket of an elderly woman holding a sky blue bag. Lacno found Soriano's identification card inside the bag which enabled her to locate Soriano's children. The cash was later handed over to Soriano's son Lovinsky in Eusebio's presence.

PHILIPPINE PORTS AUTHORITY

PORT DISTRICT OFFICE OF VISAYAS
CIP COMPLEX, SERGING OSMEÑA BLVD., NORTH RECLAMATION AREA,
CEBU CITY, PHILIPPINES
TEL. NO. (032) 232-3401 TO 04, FAX NO. (032) 232-1990
email: pdavisayas@ppavis.com website: www.ppavis.com

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **PHILIPPINE PORTS AUTHORITY, Port District Office – Visayas,** through its Bids and Awards Committee – Engineering Project (BAC-EP), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

A:

Name of Contract : **Improvement of Basiao Port**
Location : Basiao, Ivisan, Capiz
Major Items of Work : 1.) Reclamation (2,240.0 sq.m.)
2.) Concrete Pavement (2,240.0 sq.m.)
3.) Construction of Open Shed (10.0 m x 20.0 m)
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) : P 14,897,262.40
Source of Funds : PPA Corporate Fund
Contract Duration : One Hundred Forty Five **(145)** Calendar Days
PCAB Registration : **Medium A "Port & Offshore Engineering"**

Required Equipments :

1)	1 unit	Bar Bender	-	Owned
2)	1 unit	Bar Cutter	-	Owned
3)	2 units	One Bagger Concrete Mixer	-	Owned
4)	2 units	Concrete Vibrator	-	Owned
5)	1 unit	Electric Drill (500W)	-	Owned
6)	2 units	Dump Truck (10T)	-	Owned/Leased
7)	1 unit	Backhoe (0.60 cu.m.)	-	Owned/Leased
8)	1 unit	Drop Hammer (2T)	-	Owned/Leased
9)	1 unit	Roller Compactor (Vibratory-10T)	-	Owned/Leased
10)	1 unit	Truckmounted Crane (35T)	-	Owned/Leased
11)	1 unit	Diesel Hammer (3.5T)	-	Owned/Leased

B:

Name of Contract : **Proposed Port Development Project**
Location : Vinisitahan, Dalupiri Island, Northern Samar
Major Items of Work : 1.) Const. of Causeway (6.0m x 66.0m)
2.) Const. of RC Pier (9.0m x 66.0m)
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) : P 26,012,941.67
Source of Funds : PPA Corporate Fund
Contract Duration : Two Hundred Sixty **(260)** Calendar Days
PCAB Registration : **Medium A "Port & Offshore Engineering"**

Required Equipments :

1)	1 unit	Bar Bender	-	Owned
2)	2 units	Bar Cutter	-	Owned
3)	2 units	One Bagger Concrete Mixer	-	Owned
4)	2 units	Concrete Vibrator	-	Owned
5)	1 unit	Welding Machine (150A)	-	Owned
6)	1 unit	Backhoe (0.60 cu.m.)	-	Owned/Leased
7)	1 unit	Boom Truck (5T)	-	Owned/Leased
8)	1 unit	Plate Compactor	-	Owned/Leased
9)	1 unit	Crane Barge (450 DWT)	-	Owned/Leased
10)	1 unit	Truckmounted Crane (35T)	-	Owned/Leased
11)	1 unit	Diesel Hammer (3.5T)	-	Owned/Leased
12)	1 unit	Drop Hammer (2T)	-	Owned/Leased
13)	1 unit	Jackhammer w/ Compressor (350 CFM)	-	Owned/Leased
14)	1 unit	Road Grader/Dozer (125 HP)	-	Owned/Leased
15)	1 unit	Road Roller (10T)	-	Owned/Leased
16)	1 unit	Rock Grapple (2T)	-	Owned/Leased

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB license and registration particulars applicable to the type and cost of the contract to be bid, have key personnel and equipment available for the prosecution of the contract, must have completed **50% for Major Items of Work** (indicated above) on contract/projects with similar in nature and complexity to the contract to be bid within the past **Five (5) years** immediately preceding the publication of this invitation; with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and meet the other eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Statement. Applications for eligibility, as well as the preliminary examination of bids, will be evaluated on "pass/fail" criteria. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid. In accordance with the IRR-A of RA 9184, a contract will be awarded only to the lowest calculated and responsive bidder.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

	BAC Activities	Schedule*
1.	Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	April 06 – 17, 2006
2.	Issuance of Eligibility Forms	April 06 – 24, 2006
3.	Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	May 1, 2006

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at Philippine Ports Authority, Port District Office – Visayas, CIP Complex, Serging Osmeña Blvd., North Reclamation Area, Cebu City upon their submission of a LOI, photocopy of PCAB License and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of **P1,100.00** (inclusive of VAT) to the Philippine Ports Authority, Port District Office – Visayas Cashier. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **P2,500.00** (inclusive of VAT) to the Philippine Ports Authority, Port District Office – Visayas Cashier.

The Philippine Ports Authority, Port District Office – Visayas reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to the award of contract without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) JAMES J. GANTALAO
BAC Chairman

(PDI - March 24 & 31, 2006)

Half of MMDA's 2006 budget goes to waste

By Tarra V. Quismundo

ALMOST HALF OF THE TOTAL budget this year of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) would be spent on garbage.

Congress approved Tuesday a 2006 budget of P1.095 billion for MMDA, slightly higher than last year's P1.086 billion. The biggest share, P487 million, of this year's budget will go to garbage disposal, the MMDA announced yesterday. Some P298 will be spent on flood control, and P177 million on traffic management. The remaining P133 million will be for foreign assisted projects.

MMDA Assistant General Manager for Finance Edenison Fainsan said the budget was approved without cuts. "We are happy with the outcome of the budget hearing... there was no opposition from the congressmen...," he said. But MMDA General Manager Robert Nacianceno said the agency could require more than double the budget allocation, about P1 billion, to dispose of Metro Manila's garbage. Operators of facilities where the MMDA brought the garbage were asking for higher tipping fees.

The MMDA, which is tasked to dispose of the metro's garbage, currently uses the Montalban Solid Waste Disposal Facility in Rodriguez, Rizal; Clark Development Corporation in Capas, Tarlac; and controlled dumps in Navotas and Payatas, Quezon City, for roughly 4,000 tons of garbage collected daily.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
(Head Office)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) invites interested general building contractors with current Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) License to apply for eligibility and to bid and if later found eligible, to bid for the project described below:

Project Title : Proposed Rehabilitation of Tuesday Manor Condominium
Scope of Work : Furnishing of all materials, labor, tools, equipment, technical supervision and other services and performing all operations necessary for the completion of the proposed Rehabilitation of Tuesday Manor Condominium, a BSP acquired asset all in accordance with the approved plans and specifications and subject to the terms and conditions of the contract.
Project Location : Brgy. Poblacion, Mandaluyong City
Approved Budget : One Million Five Hundred Eighty Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety Pesos (P1,589,990.00)
Source of Funding : BSP Corporate Funds
Contract Duration : Sixty (60) calendar days
Minimum Requirement (Criteria)
PCAB License : Registration Particulars of at least "Small B" (Building & Industrial Plant)
Contractor's Construction Experience : Should have completed within the last five (5) years (2001 to present) at least one (1) project involving construction / renovation of commercial offices or residential buildings costing not less than seven hundred ninety five thousand pesos (P795,000.00)
In case of a joint venture, submission of a valid joint venture agreement including the special PCAB license is required. The joint venture must have previously completed at least two (2) similar construction projects involving similar magnitude as the proposed BSP project.
Certification of Satisfactory Performance : Should be able to submit certificates of satisfactory performance from the client of the declared completed similar projects.
For those contractors who have previously done / completed BSP project/s, the certificate/s of satisfactory performance issued by the Bank for said project/s must be submitted
Net Financial Contracting Capacity or : At least **One Million Five Hundred Eighty Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety Pesos (P1,589,990.00)** computed as 10 x (current assets less current liabilities) minus (value of all on-going contracts including awarded yet to be started)
Credit Line or Cash Deposit Certificate : At least One Hundred Sixty Thousand Pesos (P160,000.00)
Letter of Intent (LOI)
Deadline of Submission : March 31, 2006 / 2:00 PM
Eligibility Statement Forms
Cost of Forms : Five Hundred Pesos per set (P500.00/set)
Date of Issuance : March 13 to 27, 2006 / 9:00 AM to 12NN
Deadline of Submission and Opening : March 31, 2006 / 10:00 AM
Notice of Eligibility / Ineligibility
Date of Issuance : April 13, 2006 / 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM
Bid / Tender Documents Issuance : Shall be issued only to eligible contractors upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00)
Date of Issuance : April 13 to 14, 2006 / 9:00 AM to 12:00 NN
Pre-Bid Conference
Date and Time : April 21, 2006 / 10:00 AM
Venue : MR2A Conference Rm., 2nd Floor, BSP Main Complex, A. Mabini cor. P. Ocampo St., Manila
Submission and Opening of Bids
Deadline of Submission : May 10, 2006 / 2:00 PM

For inquiries, please call BAC Secretariat - telephone no. 524-7011 local 3143.

The venue for the issuance and submission of Letter of Intent, accomplished eligibility statements and bid documents is at the BAC Secretariat, Room 204, 2nd Floor - Five Storey Building, BSP Main Complex, A. Mabini cor. P. Ocampo St., Manila.

The schedule of bid activities from the issuance of notice of eligibility/ineligibility up to the deadline of submission of bids may be subject to change.

The provisions of Republic Act No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations shall govern relative to the bidding and award of contract including its implementation.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.
Chairman

(PDI - March 15 & 24, 2006)

METROBRIEFS

Not a bright move

A TRICYCLE driver stole the engine of his neighbor's motorcycle and tried to sell it to the same person the next day. His victim wasn't amused. Homer Bacal was arrested for allegedly stealing the engine block of his neighbor Rodolfo Aplacador's' motorcycle in front of the latter's home in East Fairview, Quezon City, before dawn of March 20, police said. The next day, Bacal knocked on his neighbor's door offering to sell an engine block, according to a report by investigator PO2 Gregorio Maramag. When Aplacador inspected the motorcycle part, he was shocked to find that it looked like the one he had lost. Turning the engine around, he saw familiar scratches that he had made on the engine block. He showed the marks to Bacal and immediately called a policeman neighbor, SPO3 Rodolfo Quintero, who arrested the suspect, police said. Upon learning the news, a witness, Larry Bernaldez, told police he had seen Bacal detach the engine from Aplacador's motorcycle using a wrench.

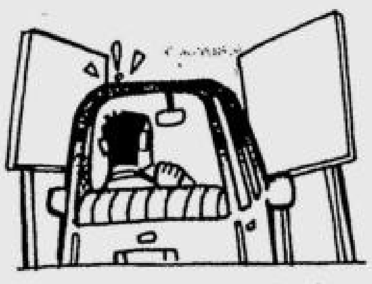
DJ Yap

Work of amateur

THE POLICE ARRESTED yesterday a 25-year-old man linked to the abduction of his neighbor inside their posh Quezon City village the other night. A police officer familiar with the case but who declined to be identified described the alleged kidnapping as "amateurish." Police operatives arrested Sherwyn Ang, a resident of the Corinthian Gardens, early morning Thursday, confirmed Deputy Director General Oscar Calderon, chief of the Presidential Anti-Crime and Emergency Response (Pacer), the elite anti-kidnapping unit of the police. At 11 p.m. on Wednesday, Ang and his girlfriend, Michelle Lu, allegedly kidnapped William How, 57, a businessman, while he was jogging inside the village, police said. They forced him into a Toyota Corolla with plate NO. URX-720 and took How later to a vacant house on Tabuena Street, where Ang also lived. The suspects had demanded a P20 million ransom and then left him. The victim able to escape yesterday, and with the assistance of Pacer and village security personnel, Ang was arrested after How identified the abductor's car. The manhunt for Lu is ongoing, police said.

Luige A. del Puerto

Down with bill ads



TO SHOW that the Valenzuela City government was bent on putting order in all major roads and other areas, all illegal billboards and other signs would be dismantled and motorcades would no longer be allowed during weekdays. These were the orders of City Mayor Sherwin Gatchalian to members of the city's clean and green brigade. The city has an existing ordinance regulating the installation and display of streamers, billboards and advertising signs along major roads, parks and open spaces. Gatchalian added that to avoid clutter in the city's major thoroughfares, the holding of motorcades particularly during weekdays would not be encouraged.

Nancy C. Carvajal

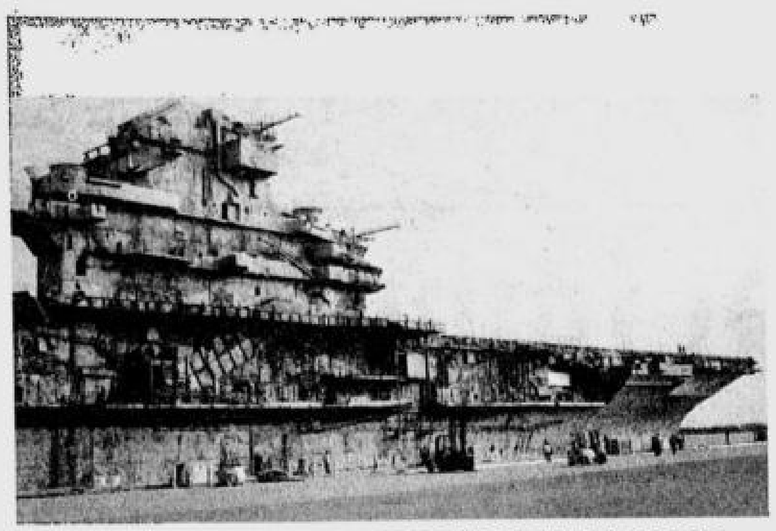
Man dies after setting bed on fire

A MAN died after he allegedly set his bed on fire on Wednesday in Navotas. Police Supt. Genesis Tolejano identified the victim as Edmund Arellano, 30, of 29 Adelfa St., Merville Subdivision. Members of his family immediately put out the fire and rushed the victim to the Tondo Medical Center and General Hospital for treatment, but Arellano died on the way. "Although the victim had burns all over his body, the cause of his death has yet to be determined through an autopsy," Tolejano said. Initial investigation showed that the victim, who was reported to have a mental disability, was alone in his room when the incident happened. Details on what Arellano allegedly used to start the fire were not immediately available.

Nancy C. Carvajal

PNPA alumni homecoming

ALUMNI of the Philippine National Police Academy will hold its 26th annual homecoming on March 24 and 25 at the PNPA grounds in Camp Castañeda in Silang, Cavite. The thrust of the traditional homecoming shall be more on bonding and camaraderie of families of every alumnus, according to Superintendent Romulo Sapitula, president of the PNPA Batch '86, which together with Batch '96, are hosts of this year's event. Chief Inspector Shiela Portento is the president of Batch '96 alumni. This year's hosts also initiated the adopt-a-classroom program to help the academy build a state-of-the-art classroom for PNPA cadets. Distinguished alumni, as well as those who passed the Career Civil Service Executive and Bar examinations, shall be presented the "Lakan Awards" during the program.



FROM MILITARY MACHINE TO FISH SANCTUARY
The US Navy plans to sink this famed Vietnam-era aircraft carrier Oriskany this May as the world's largest intentionally-created reef. AP

EU blacklists 95 unsafe airlines

BRUSSELS—THE EUROPEAN Union approved Wednesday a first-ever joint blacklist of nearly 100 mostly African airlines considered to be unsafe, in a move spurred by a spate of fatal crashes last year.

The list, which goes into effect on Saturday, bans 92 airlines from plying EU skies all together and puts restrictions on another three from flying certain types of airplanes into the 25-nation bloc.

"The European Union now has a coherent approach to banning airlines," Transport Commissioner Jacques Barrot said.

"This blacklist will keep dubious airlines out of Europe. It will also make sure that all airlines operating in Europe's sky meet the highest safety standards."

EU member states were stung into action after a string of deadly accidents last year that highlighted the fragmented approach to air safety in the 25-nation bloc.

The blacklist will work on the principle that an airline banned in one EU member will be outlawed in the whole bloc and the European Commission is to be charged with keeping the roster up to date.

Most of the carriers on the list are based in Africa and there are blanket bans on airlines from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sierra Leone, Equatorial Guinea, Liberia and Swaziland.

The few companies not from Africa are based in Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, North Korea and Thailand.

Although some of the banned companies do not currently fly to the EU, the list will have a "preventive effect" by keeping them from trying to enter the European market in the future by such means as offering their planes for charter flights, said Barrot's spokesperson Stefaan De Rynck.

However, the commission said that it was considering making aid available to countries whose airlines figure on the list to help improve security.

"We are ready to consider financial aid, within the framework of development aid, to help these companies get up to date on security rules," Development Commissioner Louis Michel said.

To draw up the list, member states submitted their individual roster of companies considered unsafe and experts then voted on which airlines should be included on an overall EU list. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

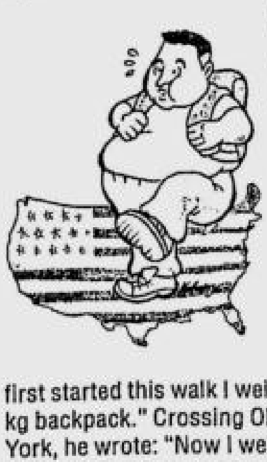
Gambia says it foiled coup plot

BANJUL—Gambia's government said on Wednesday it had uncovered a coup plot led by the country's defense chief and arrested most of those involved, except the military ringleader who was on the run. An official statement announced the conspiracy in the tiny West African country after President Yahya Jammeh had cut short a trip to Mauritania late on Tuesday and returned home. The government named new defense and intelligence chiefs in an apparent purge of the top security posts in the impoverished former British colony, which depends on peanut farming, fishing and tourism for its livelihood. The tiny state is a narrow sliver extending along the Gambia river, sandwiched between north and south halves of Senegal. Opponents accuse Jammeh of a range of human rights abuses as well as rigging previous elections. He opened his campaign for the 2001 presidential polls by saying he had already won and threatening to shoot anyone who disrupted polling. ***Reuters***

Afghan Christian convert faces death

KABUL—Under mounting international pressure over the case of a man facing the death penalty for converting to Christianity, Afghanistan said on Wednesday its judiciary alone would decide the case. US President George W. Bush said he was deeply troubled by the case of Abdur Rahman, who an Afghan judge said this week had been jailed for converting from Islam to Christianity and could face the death penalty if he refused to become a Muslim again. Death is one of the punishments stipulated by Sharia, or Islamic law, for apostasy. The Afghan legal system is based on a mix of civil and Sharia law. "We in Afghanistan have the prosecutor who observes the law and the court that executes it. Whatever the court orders will be executed as the court is independent," said Mahaiuddin Baluch, a religious affairs adviser to President Hamid Karzai. ***Reuters***

Fat man walking



NEW YORK—Steve Vaught's quest to shed the dozens of kilos of fat he was lugging around began with a single step, as did his one-man expedition to cross America on foot. Vaught, who began his trek last April in Oceanside, California, has so far covered more than 3,700 km—the last leg to New York with freezing Midwestern winds snapping at his back. As the miles have mounted, so too has interest in Vaught, a sort of slow-motion, portly, country-crossing Forrest Gump doppleganger. Supporters have tracked his progress through his website, logging hundreds of thousands of hits, while others have watched him interviewed on Oprah Winfrey's TV show. In America, where obesity has become a national concern, his appeal is as broad as he was heavy when he began the journey he hoped would help not only shed pounds, but the mindset that led to his weight gain. The 39-year-old ex-Marine, who is married and has two children, said on his blog earlier this month: "When I first started this walk I weighed around 184.5 kg and I was carrying an 35-kg backpack." Crossing Ohio, some six weeks from his goal to reach New York, he wrote: "Now I weigh 133 kg and I am carrying a pack that weighs only 13.5 kg. That is an overall reduction of almost 79 kg off of my feet. So it will only get easier from here." ***AP***

US student nets $1M from poker tourney

ST. PAUL, Minnesota—Newly minted poker millionaire Mike Schneider has one regret about how he spent his spring break: He didn't get to see much of the Caribbean. But Schneider has a million other reasons to be happy. The 22-year-old University of Minnesota student won $1 million in a high-stakes Limit Hold'em poker tournament on a Caribbean cruise last Friday. Instead of exploring the Cayman Islands with the other passengers during the eight-day cruise, Schneider holed up on board, slept in and relaxed in the sun so he would be in good form for the nail-biting tournament, which lasted five to eight hours a day. The soft-spoken student has been playing poker professionally for a couple of years, but he took the cruise with a group of buddies to relax—not play. He ended up borrowing some of the $10,500 he needed to buy into the PartyPoker.com Million V tournament. ***AP***

Time and commitment determine the strength of partnership...

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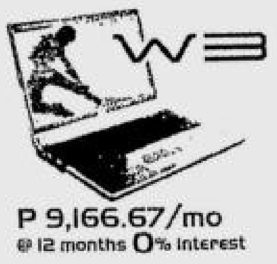

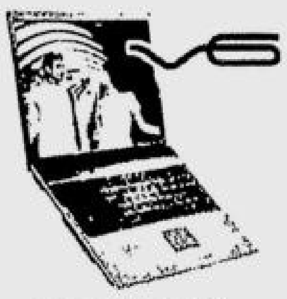

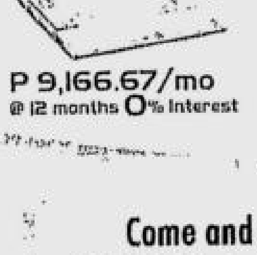

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DVD/CD-RW Combo Drive
12.1" WXGA
Embedded Intel 915GM
Wireless LAN 802.11 b/g
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Intel 915GM Express
256 DDR2/533 MHz
15" TFT XGA
60 GB HDD
DVD/CD-RW Combo Drive
Wireless LAN 802.11 b/g
4-in-1 Card Reader
4 x USB, 1 x IEEE 1394
2.5 kgs.
P 4,658.33/mo
@ 12 months 0% interest

Pentium M 730 1.7 GHz
Intel 915GM Express
256 DDR2/533 MHz
15" TFT XGA
60 GB HDD
DVD/CD-RW Combo Drive
Wireless LAN 802.11 b/g
4-in-1 Card Reader
4 x USB, 1 x IEEE 1394
Windows XP Home
2.5 kgs.
P 5,491.67/mo
@ 12 months 0% interest

W3
P 9,166.67/mo
@ 12 months 0% interest

Pentium M 740 1.7 GHz
512 DDR2/533 MHz
60 GB Hard Disk Drive
Swappable 8 x DVD Dual (DVD Writer)
14" WXGA
Embedded Intel 915GM
Wireless LAN 802.11 b/g
4-in-1 Card Reader
3 x USB, 1x IEEE 1394
Bluetooth
Windows XP Home
2.2 kgs.

V6
P 10,833.33/mo
@ 12 months 0% interest

Pentium M 740 1.7 GHz
Intel 915GM Express
512 DDR2/533 MHz
15" XGA
ATI Mobility Radeon X600
60GB HDD
DVD Dual
Wireless LAN 802.11 b/g
Bluetooth
4-in-1 Card Reader
4 x USB, 1 x IEEE 1394
IrDA
Windows XP Home
2.6 kgs.

U5
P 9,166.67/mo
@ 12 months 0% interest

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Bird flu pandemic seen not imminent

ROOSTER in cage: Not so fearsome?

NEW YORK—TWO GROUPS OF RESEARCHERS, in Japan and in Holland, say they have discovered why the avian flu virus is rarely if ever transmitted from one person to another.

The reason, the researchers propose, is that the cells bearing the type of receptor the avian virus is known to favor are clustered in the deepest branches of the human respiratory tract, keeping it from spreading by coughs and sneezes. Human flu viruses typically infect cells in the upper respiratory tract.

The avian virus would need to accumulate many mutations in its genetic material before it could become a pandemic strain, said Yoshihiro Kawaoka, a virologist at the University of Tokyo and the University of Wisconsin.

According to a University of Wisconsin news release approved by Kawaoka, "The finding suggests that scientists and public health agencies worldwide may have more time to prepare for an eventual pandemic."

Kawaoka's finding is being published in Thursday's issue of Nature, and a similar finding, by Thijs Kuiken and colleagues at the Erasmus Medical Center in Rotterdam, Netherlands, appears in this week's Science.

Flu experts already knew that people who contract the current avian flu virus, a type known as A (H5N1) or H5 for short, are infected in the lower lung.

Paul A. Offit, a virologist at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, said the new reports helped explain why the H5 virus, though it can infect people, does not easily spread from one person to another.

Virologists agree that a flu pandemic will happen sooner or later as one of the 16 types of flu virus in the animal world, probably one that infects birds, will manage to switch hosts, and grow and spread in humans. But they differ over whether H5 is the likeliest candidate to make such a switch.

The H5 virus has been present in the human population since the late 1950s, said Offit of Children's Hospital, but has never acquired the full set of mutations needed to set off a pandemic. Such epidemiological evidence "should make us feel safe that there's a substantial barrier," he said, noting the small number of people who have been infected. *NYT*

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YOUNG supporters of Belarus' opposition leader Alexander Milinkevich take part amid freezing weather in a rally in central Minsk, Belarus, March 23. AP

Overnight vigils protesting vote defy Belarus authorities

MINSK, BELARUS—BY MIDNIGHT, AS THE temperature dropped ever lower and morning twilight was still five hours off, the core of Belarus' public opposition assumed its shape in the darkness.

It was about 300 people, arms interlocked and forming a small, dense square, stomping on the frozen ground under a police cadre's contemptuous gaze. Behind them, inside their human box, another group of demonstrators held their banned flags overhead, a thicket of banners over 20 small tents. At any moment, the demonstrators said, they expected the police to rush forward, beat them with clubs and drag them off to the detention cells. And then their protest would end in blood.

All of them said they were ready. "They may attack and beat us and inflict great trauma," said Stepan Svidersky, 18, a student. "But we have already achieved a result: We have shown our country that we are not afraid to stand against arbitrary rule."

Since a rigged presidential election on March 19, the capital of Belarus has seen a protest like none in 12 years of President Alexander G. Lukashenko's autocratic grip. For four consecutive days, protesters have defied warnings of arrest and bloodshed and stood in a corner of October Square to demand a new race.

Their numbers rise to several thousand each evening, as they form a rally and impromptu dance party on the edge of an ice rink, and then dwindle, hour by hour, until midnight, when this core stands through the night, in two lines, to hold the place for the next day.

Mostly they are young men in their 20s. A few look too young to shave. But since Tuesday night, when the opposition's leaders began to disagree about how best to proceed in their effort to unseat a president they do not recognize, this all-night core has become an independent force in a quixotic struggle.

After midnight, the protesters occupied a portion of Belarus, a country of 10 million people the size of Kansas, that was no larger than a 50-yard square.

It was a country within. They danced on its cold stone. They handed out tea. They said they would not give it up.

"We consider this camp to be the only means to defend our position," Vitaly Korotysh, 22, one of the coordinators of the rally, said at 3:30 a.m. "If necessary it will stand for years. And if they break it up, I think on the next day the people will be back." *NYT*

How not to freeze or be arrested while on protest

MINSK—HOW TO SPEND THE NIGHT in a protest rally and not freeze, or bring food to protestors and not be molested by the police? Ask those Belarussian websites not yet shut down by the authorities.

As hundreds of mostly young people camped out on the main square of Minsk to protest the Sunday election that saw authoritarian President Alexander Lukashenko claim victory, many people were afraid to bring out water and food for fear of being arrested, the United Civilian party website said.

"Do not be rude when the police are around, do not provoke them to use force. If food and thermal containers are confiscated, ask the police to protocol it, as it is your personal property. You can record your conversation with them, but warn them beforehand," the website advised.

As for those already out in the square but seeking not to freeze, philosopher Valentin Akudovich shared his own experience in the tent camp on the Khopits (Enough!) website.

According to Akudovich, protesters should cover and line tents with plastic, make sure they have warm blankets, several pairs of socks and drink hot tea, coffee or gravy to keep from freezing.

They should also sleep in a warm hat, preferably a knit one, with their head to the tent flap so that they could get out quickly in case of attack, Akudovich added. *AFP*

Wal-Mart to hire 150,000 in China

SHENZHEN, CHINA—WAL-MART STORES Inc. plans to hire 150,000 people in China over the next five years, five times the number it currently employs here, as it prepares for a major store expansion.

Joe Hatfield, chief executive of Wal-Mart Asia, who has worked at the world's biggest retailer for more than 30 years and was its first employee in China in 1994, said on Sunday the company plans to open 20 stores in the country this year and is racing to train more staff so that it can speed up growth.

"We're really going to ramp this up," Hatfield told Reuters in an interview while touring stores in Shenzhen, Wal-Mart's China headquarters.

The Bentonville, Arkansas-based retailer currently has 56 stores in China, putting it behind other global chains such as France's Carrefour, which had 78 at the end of 2005.

Wal-Mart did not even register enough sales to crack the top 30 on the Ministry of Commerce list of the biggest retailers in China, released last month.

That looks set to change.

"We're going to be growing in all directions," Hatfield said, adding that new stores were planned for both the major metropolises and the smaller cities. *Reuters*

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

SPORTS

Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**

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Compiled by L. Manguiat

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Off-form Gin Kings attempt to snap slide

LOSING IS BAD ENOUGH AS IT IS.

But the way Barangay Ginebra has dropped its last two games makes this losing streak hurt even more.

The Gin Kings, a high-profile, high-scoring side who have been way off target the past week, seek to put a stop to the bleeding tonight when they battle Air21 in the Gran Matador Brandy-PBA Philippine Cup eliminations at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Held to an average of just 57.5 points in its last two games, Ginebra is on an alarming tailspin after opening with two straight wins.

San Miguel Beer mangled the Kings, taking a 77-59 victory, before Purefoods took its turn and encountered token resistance in a 73-56 decision Wednesday night.

Those two Ginebra losses established season-low marks in scoring, and the Kings need to recover fast, starting with their 7:35 p.m. collision with the Express, to restore confidence in their psyche and put themselves back in the company of the elite teams in the upper half of the standings.

Meanwhile, Talk 'N Text, after finally winning Sunday afternoon in Hong Kong, guns for two in a row when the Phone Pals tangle with dangerous Alaska in the 4:40 p.m. curtain-raiser.

Coach Derrick Pumaren has been harping about transforming Talk 'N Text into a defense-oriented team, but the Phone Pals have yet to flaunt it three games into the tournament.

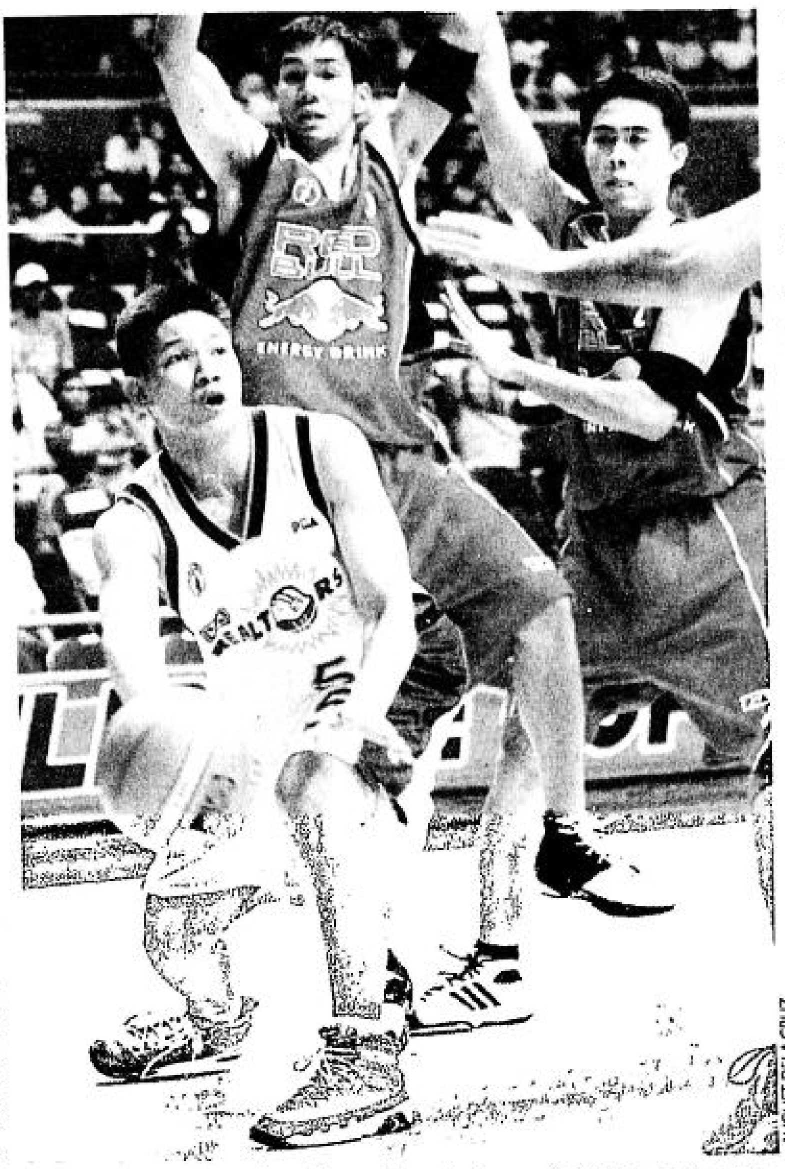
The first Talk 'N Text win came because of high-powered offense, thanks to Asi Taulava, Jimmy Alapag and Willie Miller who treated overseas Filipino workers in the former British territory to a wonderful scoring display.

Alaska will be coming off a victory over Air21.

June Navarro

STANDINGS	W	L
Coca-Cola	4	0
Purefoods	3	2
Red Bull	2	1
Alaska	2	2
San Miguel	2	2
Ginebra	2	2
Talk 'N Text	1	2
Sta. Lucia	1	3
Air21	1	3

GAMES TODAY
(*Cuneta Astrodome*)
4:40 p.m.—Alaska vs Talk 'N Text
7:35 p.m.—Ginebra vs Air21



AUGUST DELA CRUZ

RED Bull's Cyrus Baguio and Larry Fonacier harass SLR's Alex Cabagnot under the basket during Wednesday's game won by the Bulls, 104-90.

POC to seek crucial meeting with Arroyo

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE COUNTRY'S TOP SPORTS officials will seek a make-or-break meeting with First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo next week in a bid to woo him back as chief fund-raiser of the Philippine campaign in the Asian Games in Qatar, this December.

Philippine Olympic Committee secretary general Steve Hontiveros yesterday said the decision was prompted by Mr. Arroyo's failure to respond to the letter of appeal they sent him two weeks ago.

Hontiveros said POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco and first vice president and chief Malacañang link Rep. Monico Puentevella will be joined by Philippine Sports Commission chair Butch Ramirez in the meeting which could affect the country's preparation for the Asiad.

Mr. Arroyo recently announced his decision to stop raising funds for the country's athletes in the wake of criticisms he received for rewarding the gold medalists of the last Southeast Asian Games with a trip to Hong Kong and for joining the celebration atop the ring following Manny Pacquiao's win over Erik Morales in the US last January.

The First Gentleman earlier raised P160 million for the SEAG campaign last December which proved key to the country's breakthrough overall victory in the 11-nation biennial competition.

Puentevella said the country's Asiad preparation is in danger because there are no funds yet for the international exposure of some 100 athletes expected to see action in the Qatari capital, Doha.

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Paras suits up for UP again

BENJIE PARAS, THE only man to win both top rookie and MVP honors in the PBA in the same year, suits up for University of the Philippines Maroons in the Total-Filoil-Flying V Homegrown Cup that gets off the ground tomorrow at the San Juan gym.

Paras, who was both Rookie of the Year and MVP in 1989, will be joined in the UP lineup by Yeng Guiao, the Red Bull coach.

Letran and La Salle clash in the alumni game that precedes the high school encounter between Ateneo and San Beda.

Globe and Shell Aviation, Fuels and Asphalt are the sponsors of the tournament which is also backed by Sunbolt, Immuvit, Accel, Gerry's Grille, Bank of Commerce, Banco de Oro, Security Bank, X-24, Millennium Plans, PBCom and Solar Sports.

The weekend tourney offers P80,000 to the champion and P40,000 to the runner-up. Former La Salle coach Virgil Villavicencio is commissioner, Anthony Suntay is project head and David Dualan is league chair.

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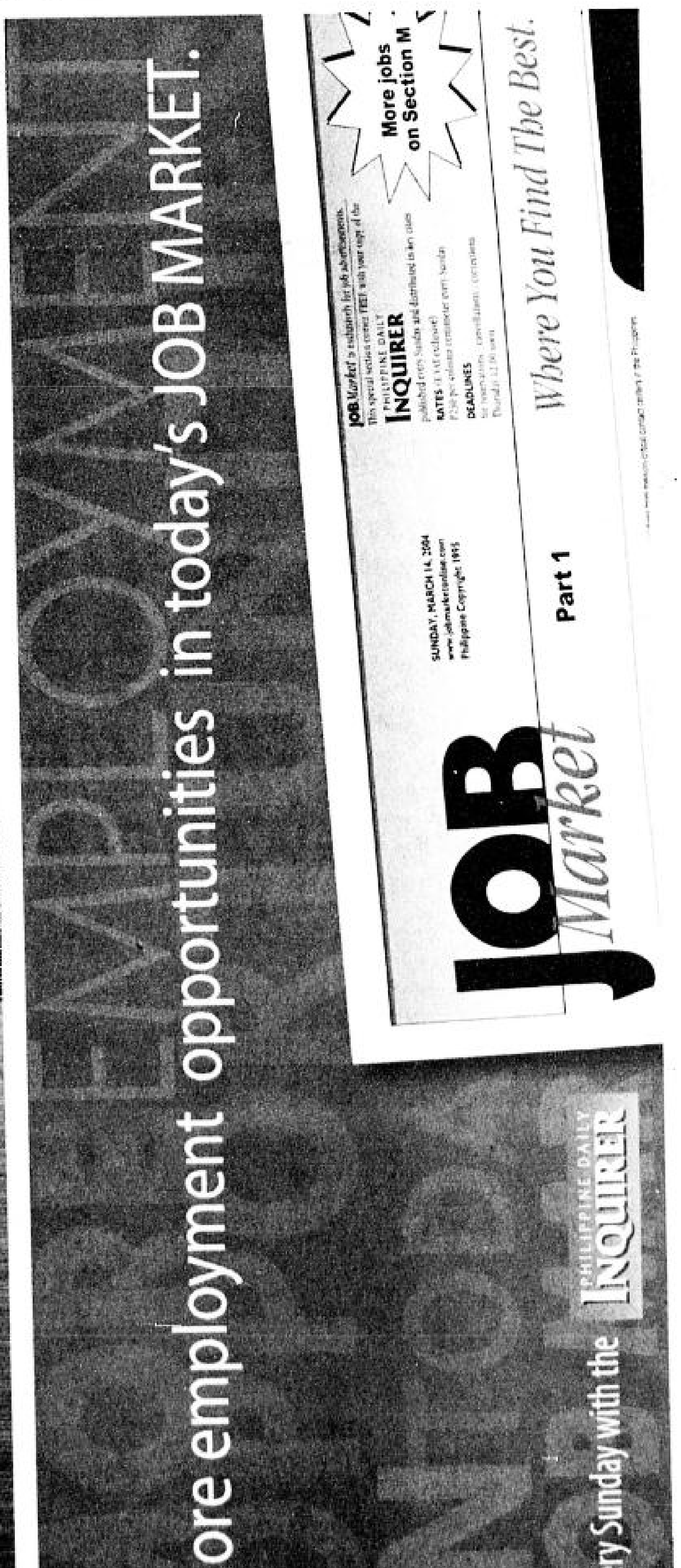
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Valencia, Iligan part ways

VALENCIA CITY—SOUTHERN DIVISION leaders Valencia Golden Harvest and Iligan Crusaders part ways in the 2006 National Basketball Conference when they clash at 6 p.m. today at the city gym here.

The presence of experienced players like last year's MVP, Christian Nicdao, Derrick Hubalde and Marlon Kalaw makes the Firefly Lightings-backed Crusaders of Mayor Lawrence Cruz the favorites to prevail.

The Golden Harvest of Mayor Jose Galario Jr. pins its hopes on 2003 NBC Find of the Year Julius Navales, 6-foot-7 Nat Cruz and rookie Fil-Am Bo Cummings, a 6-foot-5 center from the University of Manila Hawks.

"It's good that we are hosting them and not the other way around," said Valencia mentor Arvin Martinez.

Valencia beat expansion team Pagadian, 80-77, last week at the opening of the southern tournament, while the Crusaders, managed by Freddie Siao, toppled the North Cotabato Braves of Gov. Manny Piñol, 96-78, in their home debut.

Spring Cooking Oil-Parañaque and Batang Tagaytay lead the northern division.

HANS Rey displays his wares.

World bike champ struts stuff in RP cycling exhibit

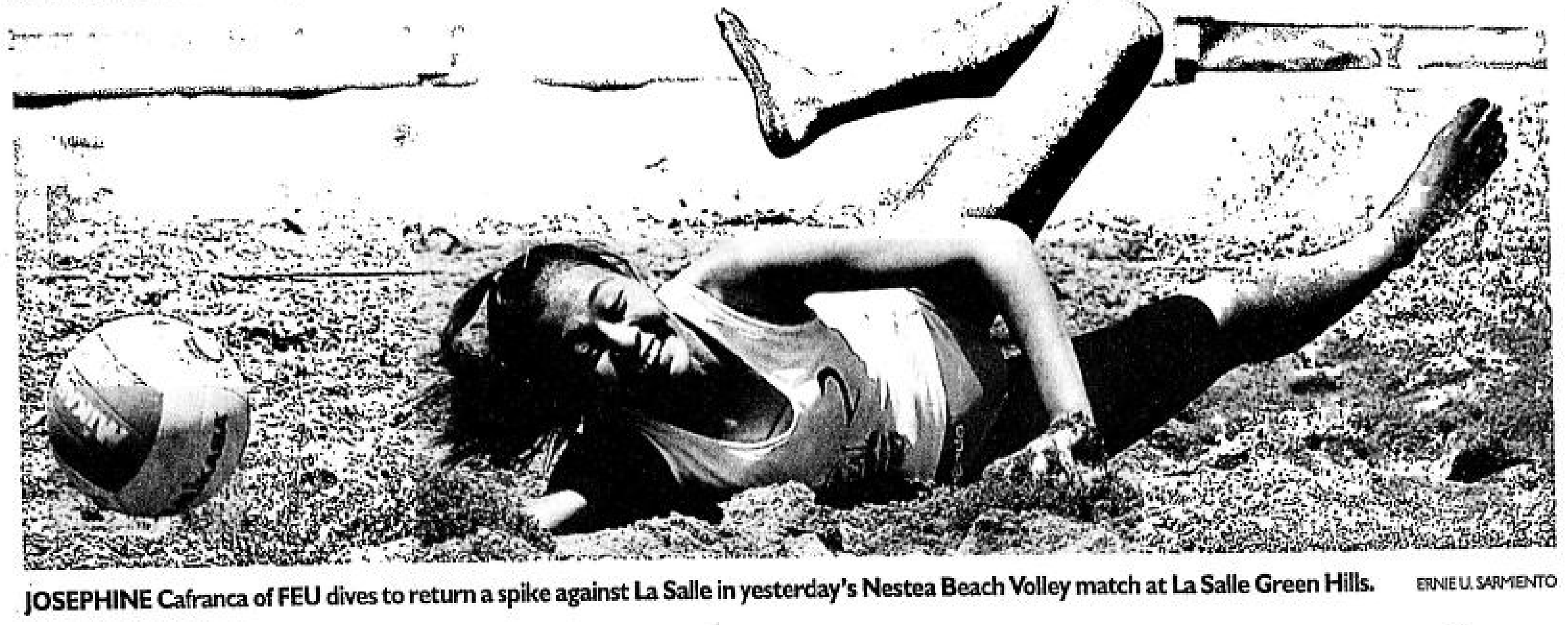
By Jasmine W. Payo

WORLD CHAMPION RIDER HANS REY will show what he can do with the bike at the first Philippine Cycling Exhibit at 4 p.m. on Sunday at the Powerplant Mall in Rockwell, Makati City.

The demo will be the highlight of a three-day bike exhibit that will start tomorrow. The cycling show will feature sports equipment, from road bikes to BMX to mountain bikes. Memorabilia such as jerseys and posters signed by pros and world champions will be on display.

Mechanics and technical experts will be on tap to answer questions on bike maintenance and riding techniques in the event presented by the Terry Larrazabal Bike Festival and Powerbikes.

Inducted to the Mountain Biking Hall of Fame in 1999, the 39-year-old Rey—nicknamed "No Way Rey"—has been performing in stunts in over 40 countries including events such as the X-Games.



JOSEPHINE Cafranca of FEU dives to return a spike against La Salle in yesterday's Nestea Beach Volley match at La Salle Green Hills. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Benilde, FEU gain semis

DEFENDING CHAMPION ST. BENILDE AND 1999 titlist Far Eastern U booked the final two Luzon berths to the Boracay stage of the 10th Nestea Beach Volley Championships after bouncing back from losses in their morning matches yesterday.

St. Benilde stopped the University of the Philippines, 25-21, after bowing to St. Francis of Assisi, 25-17, while FEU made up for a 25-21 loss to Adamson in the morning with a 25-21 decision of La Salle at the La Salle Green Hills sand court.

Both wound up with 3-1 records to advance to the semifinals of the annual event set May 4 to 6.

St. Francis and Adamson swept their first three assignments to secure the first two Luzon slots. The Doves and the Falcons were disputing the Luzon championship at presstime.

The four squads actually represented Luzon last year in the tournament that offers P100,000 each to the men's and women's champions.

University of Baguio, Letran, St. Benilde and 2002 champion Adamson cornered the slots for Luzon in women's play.

University of Baguio tripped Adamson, 25-21, while Letran sealed its first trip to the national finals with a 25-15 win over St. Benilde, which bounced back with an afternoon victory, 25-20, over Philippine Christian, to make it.

Adamson also recovered and advanced with a 25-15 win over University of Santo Tomas.

HEAD TURNER

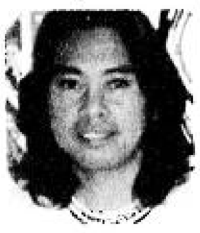
The formula 3 car of Asian Formula Three young gun Dado Peña makes heads turn in the recent Concorso Filipino at the Enrique Zobel field of the Manila Polo Club in Makati City. Concorso Filipino is an annual showcase of exotic and sports cars. Peña, shown with 2005 Ms AF-3 Charmagne de Guzman, will drive anew for Team Goddard in this year's AF3 circuit starting May 6-7 at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas, under the banner of PLDT Mypad (www.mypad.net) PLDT myDSL, MOF, Hanjin, Pena y Cia and Speedzone. An international cast that includes defending champion Ananda Mikola of Indonesia and former champion Christian Jones are again seeing action in the much-awaited series.

SPORTSWATCH

Teams welcome in Coach E cagefest

SCHOOL, VILLAGE AND CLUB TEAMS CAN JOIN THE COACH E SUMMER Basketball Tournament slated May 2 at clubsixfifty in Libis, Quezon City, and at Xavier School in Greenhills, San Juan. The organizing International Basketball Academy said individual entries and small groups have already registered for the tournament. IBA president Xavy Nunag yesterday said there will be a separate 11-and-under division in the tournament which mainly caters to cagers from 6 to 16 years old. Nunag said another registration day is set this Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the clubsixfifty. Interested individuals and groups may cal 631-1195 or 0921-7562639. Participants will also get a taste of the personalized Coach E approach in the three-day clinic set April 22, 23 and 27.

Southwoods tennis camp starts April 1



MANNY Tecson

THE MANILA SOUTHWOODS TENNIS CAMP OPENS its new season on April 1 with former RP Davis Cup team coach Manny Tecson as lead instructor. The annual camp, sponsored by the Fil-Estate Sports Foundation Inc. and Splash Island Water Park in cooperation with Metro Rail Transit, the Manila Times, Accel, Gaspeed Motor Shop and Wilson Sports, is aimed at developing a new generation of tennis players through extensive and scientific training at The Manila Southwoods Sports Club in Carmona, Cavite. The academy has produced world-ranked juniors and national champions for the past eight years. For inquiries, call (046) 430-0260, (02) 938-9522 or (02) 939-4851. Classes for beginners, intermediate, advance and competitive will be from April 1 to 26 for the first batch and from May 2 to 28 for the second. Training fees are P3,500.

70 fights scheduled today in Pasay

ANOTHER BANNER CROWD IS EXPECTED TODAY IN THE "BL GEMINI Magic 4-Cock Derby" which blasts off at 6 p.m. at the Pasay City Cockpit with 70 matches on tap. The derby is sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000 and hosted by 2006 World Slasher Cup runner-up Maj. Bobby Doromal and Boy Layag of Pampanga. Topnotch cockers from the PCCA, GCAP and PCAP are entered in the event. For inquiries, call 843-1890, 843-1746 or 816-6750.

Bicol entry rules Roligon 'Largahan'

BICOL NEWCOMER CYRUS HAO WON A TOYOTA VIOS AFTER HIS ENTRY "Colleen" posted the fastest winning time in the Largahan 5-Cock Derby at the Roligon Mega Cockpit recently. Colleen timed 21 seconds flat in winning a fight during the derby's championship round last March 18. Nine other cockers emerged as co-champions. Host Rolly Ligon will next stage the "Tukaan 5-Cock Derby" on April 29, May 2, 4 and 6 with a cash pot of P2 million and a Toyota Innova at stake. For inquiries, call 851-2275, 833-1638 or 852-9812.

SJC cockfest stakes 5 Honda bikes

FIVE BRAND-NEW HONDA XRM MOTORCYCLES WILL BE UP FOR GRABS in the "Fastest Win One-Cock Ulutan" which kicks off on April 1 at the San Juan Coliseum. Host Aba Badiola said a cash pot of P574,000 will be given to the winners regardless of the actual number of entries. Entry fee is P2,200 in the cockfest sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000. The fastest win champion will get a Honda XRM plus P50,000; second to fifth placers, one Honda XRM each. For inquiries, call 0917-8264018, 725-6563 or 725-5369.

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FIGHT VS ILLEGAL BOOKIES: In a show of unity and cooperation, sectors in the local horse racing industry, led by Marho president Benhur Abalos (seventh from left), have joined forces with Congress and law enforcement agencies in the campaign against the proliferation of illegal "bookies." Joining the crusade are (from let) PRCI EVP Ramon Ereñeta Jr., Marho director Butch Mamon, MJCI president Alfonso Reyno Jr., Marho director Elias Chua, PNP Chief Supt. Antonio Nañas, GAB chair Eric Buhain, Marho chair Sandy Javier (partially hidden), NBI director Reynaldo Esmeralda, Philracom commissioner Eduardo Jose and Marho director Jake Maderazo.

Marho spearheads drive against illegal bookies

THE FIGHT TO WIPE OUT ILLEGAL BOOKIES in local horseracing got a big boost recently with the industry's leading players and key law enforcement agencies agreeing to work together.

The Metropolitan Association of Race Horse Owners (Marho), through its president Rep. Benhur Abalos, is taking the lead in this ambitious drive to rid the industry of the bookies and make horseracing reach its full potential.

Several prominent members of Congress, the Games and Amusements Board, the National Bureau of Investigation, the Philippine Racing Commission, the Philippine National Police and officials of the San Lazaro and Santa Ana racetracks have agreed to support the move.

"I am confident that with the combined efforts of the various industry sectors, the support of Congress and the law enforcement agencies, our goal of eradicating illegal bookies in horse racing may finally be realized," said Abalos.

Abalos made a presentation of the major problems confronting the horse racing industry while outlining a series of recommendations that could be carried out by various industry sectors.

Included was a proposal for all groups within the industry to police their own ranks and bar known bookie personalities and patrons from becoming members.

Jockeys and trainers found to be consorting with bookie personalities will be deprived of the benefits of the Jockeys and Trainers' Funds.

The two race clubs were also asked to conduct a regular review of the performance of the Board of Racing Stewards and provide new incentives and safeguards to prevent the OTBs from being used as fronts of illegal bookie operations.

Also present during the presentation were Caloocan City Rep. Luis "Baby" Asistio and Oscar Malapitan, Philracom commissioners Eduardo Jose, Vergel Cruz and Eduardo Domingo Jr., and new Philippine Jockeys Association head Domingo Vacal. With a report from Musong R. Castillo

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Manila Magic (4), Karma (2), Better Strike (3), Speed Admiral 91)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Deity (4), Double Your Bet (3), Mr. Lucas (5), Princess Adarna (2)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Aryaam (1), Angel of Light (6), Hidden Pleasure (3), Conquer D'Sun (2)
Race 4—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Golden Number (6), Santiago/Dona Nene (3), Rivendel (4), Mighty Story (8), Lydia's Magic (1)
Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—My Sheikh (2), Latin Music (5), C'Est Moi (8), Cool Turner (4)
Race 6—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Worth Ur While (3), Apex (1), Tell Henry (10), Virgin Island (6), Sincerity (8)
Race 7—(Qrt/Tri)—Heroics/Staunch Ally (2), Vickyval (6), Dream Cross (1), Hear Me (4)
Race 8—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Hukom/Ingaylngay (9), Silver Dollar (5), Ole! Ole! Ole! (6), Gelay's Charm (7), Beat D'Heat (1)
Race 9—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Odyssey (12), Key Element (5), Earth Wind N'Fire (1), Sweet Talk (10), Luck Of The Irish (7), Distinctive Dancer/Gun Powder (8)

Amit leads RP challenge in Asian pool tilt

THE PHILIPPINES' FINEST LADY POOL PLAYers led by double Southeast Asian Games gold medalist Rubilen Amit, will see action in the Enerva International Ladies Championship on April 25-28.

Amit and the rest of the RP team will be slugging it out with the best in the Asian region as the event also aims to prepare Team Philippines for the Qatar Asiad in December.

AMIT

Puyat Sports Inc., Solar Entertainment and Nature's Best Products Inc. put together this tournament to give the lady pool stars an arena to sharpen their skills.

Sixteen players will be seeded to the main draw while the next 16 will be filled up after a two-day qualifying set April 24 and 25 at Paeng's Skybowl.

Rankings will be determined by the entries that sign up and the organizers are expecting no less than two-time world champion Kim Young-ga of Korea, Zhou Mengmen of China and Akimi Kajitani of Japan to play.

The event will be sanctioned by the Asian Confederation of Billiards Sports and the Billiard and Snooker Congress of the Philippines.

It is also the first in a series of events being planned to establish a professional ladies tour in Southeast Asia with legs in Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore already in the works.

BAP should stop fighting a 'lost cause'

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

FOR THE SAKE OF the country and the Filipino youth, officials of the Basketball Association of the Philippines headed by former Sen. Joey Lina should stop fighting a "lost cause." Instead, they should accept the fact that their organization is no longer recognized by the Philippine Olympic Committee and that another group, Pilipinas Basketball, is set to take its place.

The BAP on Monday said it would file a case against the POC at the Lausanne-based Court of Arbitration for Sport, an independent but powerful body that settles sports disputes within national Olympic committees. Lina said they were seeking from CAS not only the BAP's reinstatement in the POC but also a "temporary relief so we can participate in the Asian Games in Doha."

Many did not buy the ploy, saying there are rules in sports that must be followed to ensure peace, fairness and sportsmanship. Respect for decisions of officials or those duly authorized to execute these rules must at all times be shown. Otherwise, there will be conflict and confusion.

It is on record that the BAP had neglected its duty to promote and develop the dash-and-dribble sport in recent years. Horrible performances by BAP-organized teams in local and international tournaments recently have offended millions of Filipinos and created a cause for its expulsion from the POC. BAP has no reason to complain after its expulsion nor put the blame on POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr. The POC merely implemented the rules governing its authority and mandate under the Olympic Charter. If the BAP was expelled, it was through its own fault.

As a result of the BAP's expulsion, the international basketball federation (Fiba) suspended the Philippines from all Fiba-sanctioned events, including the Southeast Asian Games, the Olympics and the Asian Games.

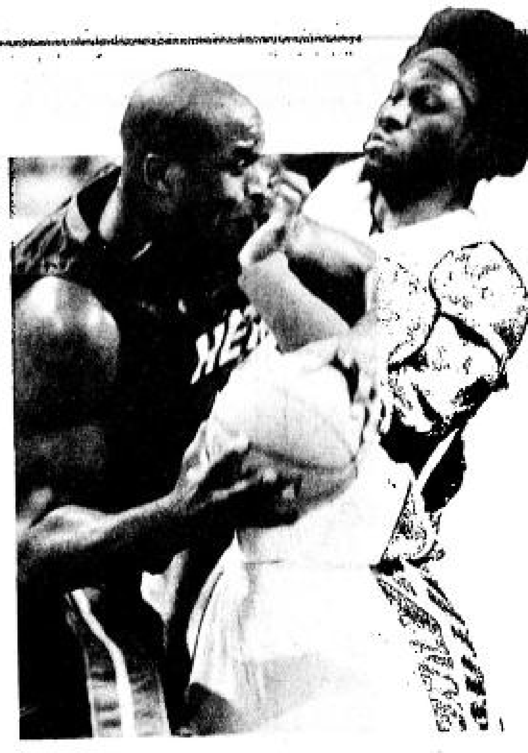
I have not seen Cojuangco in months, but I agree with him when he batted for a "fresh start" and asked cage officials to "focus more on new ideas and reforms that would redeem the country from the embarrassing output of poor leadership." He added that the POC had met the requirements detailed in the Memorandum of Understanding forged between the POC and the Fiba, represented by its secretary general Patrick Baumann.

The MoU named five stakeholders (PBA, PBL, UAAP, NCAA and Lina) to form a new basketball organization before the end of this month. Four of the five stakeholders have given their go-signal to form the new organization, which they called Pilipinas Basketball, except for Lina who refused to follow the majority.

* * *

CONDOLENCE to the family and friends of Leonardo M. Castro, who died recently at the age of 53. The president of Bataan Security Agency, Castro's remains lie at the Nacional Funeral Homes, Araneta. Interment will be at 9 a.m. on Sunday.

Hot Pistons rip Heat


MIAMI'S Shaquille O'Neal (left) takes it on the chin from Detroit's Ben Wallace. AP

AUBURN HILLS, MICHIGAN—THE Detroit Pistons overcame their worst shooting performance of the season on Wednesday to beat Eastern Conference rivals Miami, 82-73, in the National Basketball Association.

Tayshaun Prince and Antonio McDyess took over the offense in the decisive fourth quarter as the Pistons rallied for the victory over their potential playoff foes.

Chauncey Billups had 24 points and 10 assists for the Pistons, who fought back from a 12-point third-quarter deficit.

In other games, the Philadelphia Sixers downed the Atlanta Hawks, 115-106; the Cleveland Cavaliers nipped the Charlotte Hornets in overtime, 120-118; the Indiana Pacers outsteadied the Chicago Bulls, 95-85; the Orlando Magic trounced the New York Knicks, 111-87; the Boston Celtics routed the Toronto Raptors, 110-96; the Seattle Supersonics scuttled the Milwaukee Bucks, 114-105; the Los Angeles Lakers foiled the Sacramento Kings, 87-80; and the Denver Nuggets whipped the San Antonio Spurs; 104-92.

Detroit also used its trademark defense as it limited Miami to 30 points in the second half and silenced Dwyane Wade, who managed 13 points on 3-of-15 shooting.

"That was Detroit basketball," Pistons coach Flip Saunders said. "The more we played against them, the more we understood their sets and we were able to contest their shots. If we play lock-down defense like we did tonight, we can play with these guys."

Both teams downplayed the significance of the game, despite its postseason feel.

"It's no statement. It's just another game," Pistons forward Rasheed Wallace said.

Miami held a 64-62 lead with 8:48 remaining on a follow shot by Shaquille O'Neal, who had 27 points and 10 rebounds. *AFP*

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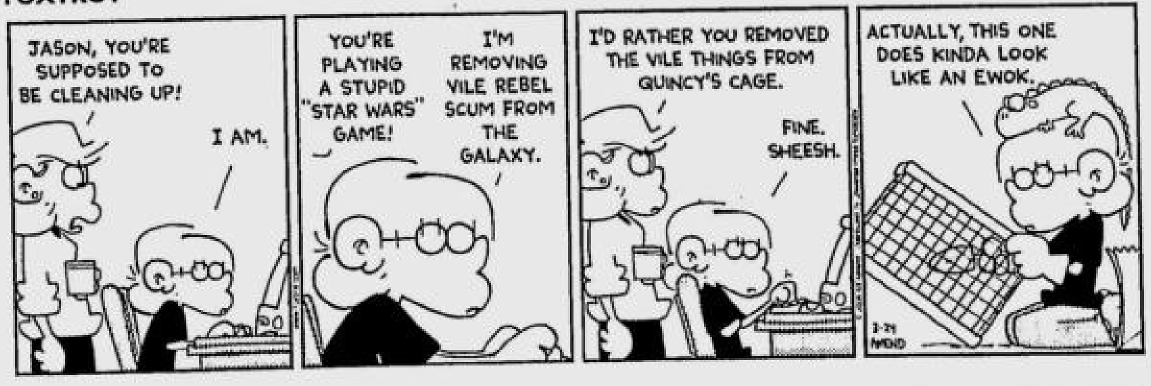
Brgy. Acmac, Lerio, Iligan City
MARLON P. GARCIA
27 yrs. old, Dump Truck Driver
Brgy. Garreta, Badoc, Ilocos Norte
2nd Prize - 4 Units Toyota Fortuner 4x2 Gasoline
MARIANO G. PLAZA
56 yrs. old, Goat Breeder
Brgy. Cale, Tanauan, Batangas
EARLY D. SUMAGANG
28 yrs. old, Housewife
Brgy. Poblacion, Bacolod, Lanao del Norte
ROSALINDA BANTILAN
40 yrs. old, Sari-Sari Store Owner
Brgy. North, Gen. Santos City
FLORINDA E. BRIGINO
44 yrs. old, Sari-Sari Store Owner
Libis, Quezon City
Thank you to all the participants and congratulations to all the winners!
Per DOH-BFAD No. 1236-2005

Government Warning:
Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

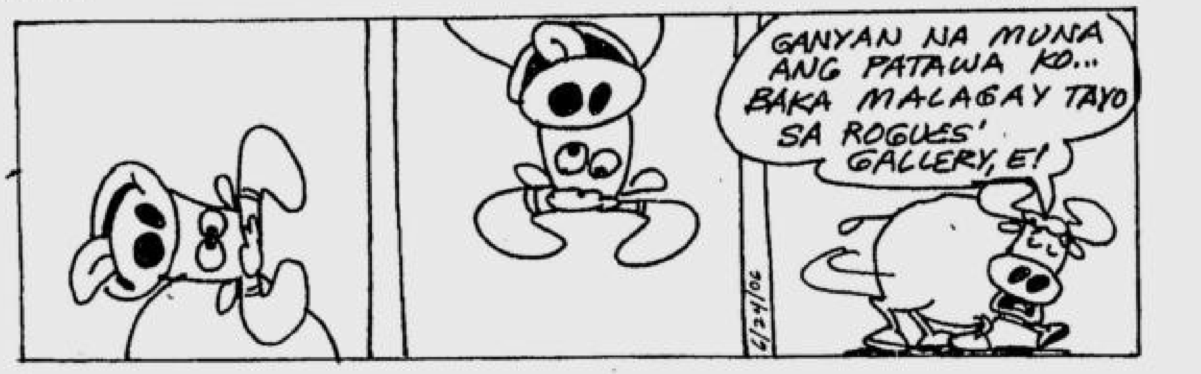
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


JASON, YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE CLEANING UP!
I AM.
YOU'RE PLAYING A STUPID "STAR WARS" GAME!
I'M REMOVING VILE REBEL SCUM FROM THE GALAXY.
I'D RATHER YOU REMOVED THE VILE THINGS FROM QUINCY'S CAGE.
FINE. SHEESH.
ACTUALLY, THIS ONE DOES KINDA LOOK LIKE AN EWOK.
3-24
AMEND

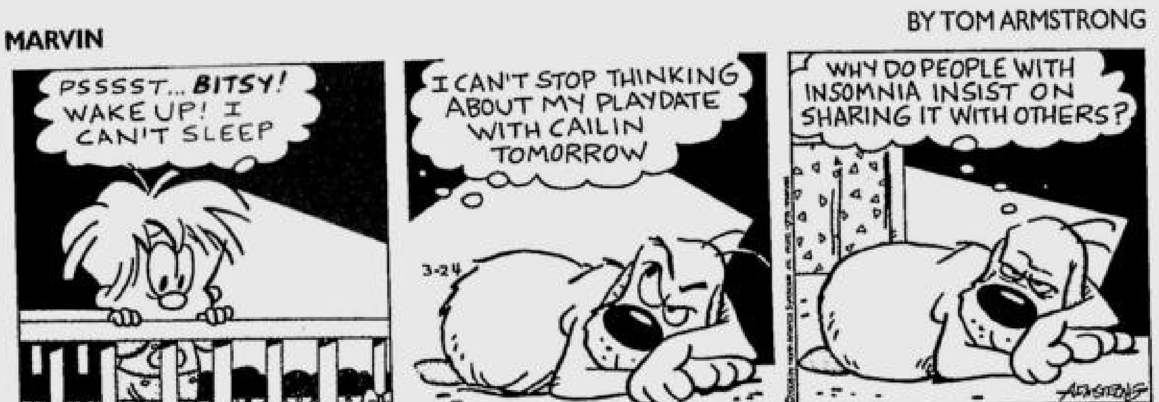
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


GANYAN NA MUNA ANG PATAWA KO... BAKA MALAGAY TAYO SA ROGUES' GALLERY, E!
6/24/06

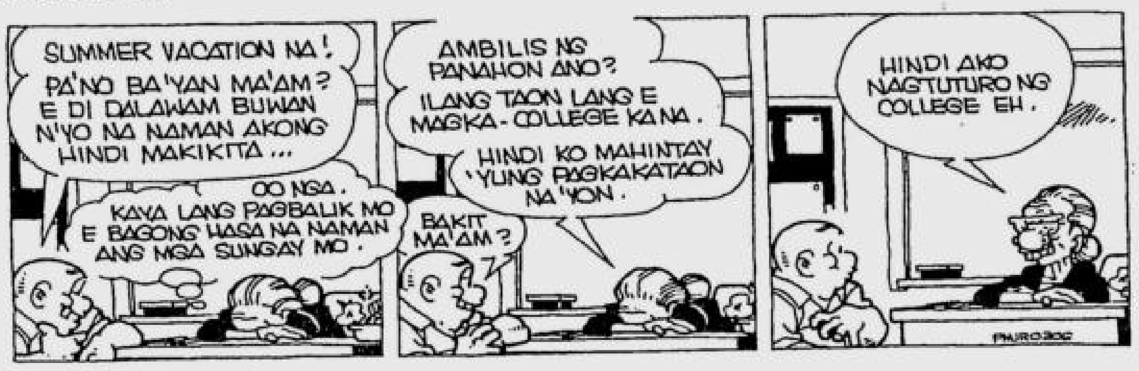
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


PSSSST... BITSY! WAKE UP! I CAN'T SLEEP
I CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT MY PLAYDATE WITH CAILIN TOMORROW
3-24
WHY DO PEOPLE WITH INSOMNIA INSIST ON SHARING IT WITH OTHERS?
ARMSTRONG

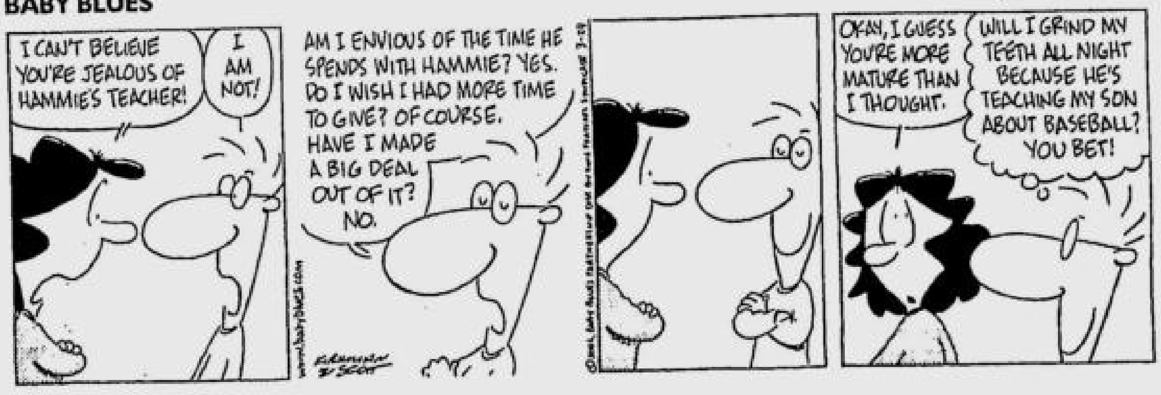
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


SUMMER VACATION NA! PA'NO BA'YAN MA'AM? E DI DALAWAM BUWAN N'YO NA NAMAN AKONG HINDI MAKIKITA...
OO NGA. KAYA LANG PAGBALIK MO E BAGONG HASA NA NAMAN ANG MGA SUNGAY MO.
AMBILIS NG PANAHON ANO? ILANG TAON LANG E MAGKA-COLLEGE KA NA.
HINDI KO MAHINTAY 'YUNG PAGKAKATAON NA 'YON.
BAKIT MA'AM?
HINDI AKO NAGTUTURO NG COLLEGE EH.
PMJR.2OC

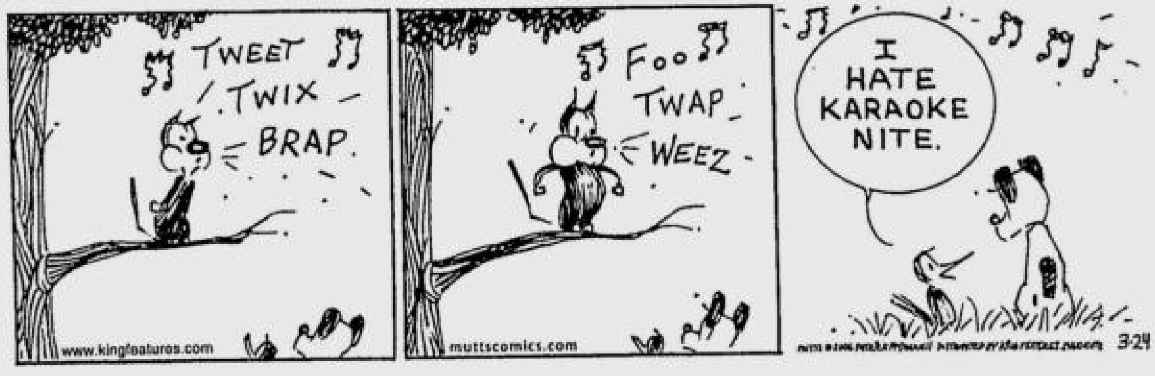
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE JEALOUS OF HAMMIE'S TEACHER!
I AM NOT!
AM I ENVIOUS OF THE TIME HE SPENDS WITH HAMMIE? YES. DO I WISH I HAD MORE TIME TO GIVE? OF COURSE. HAVE I MADE A BIG DEAL OUT OF IT? NO.
OKAY, I GUESS YOU'RE MORE MATURE THAN I THOUGHT.
WILL I GRIND MY TEETH ALL NIGHT BECAUSE HE'S TEACHING MY SON ABOUT BASEBALL? YOU BET!
www.babyblues.com
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

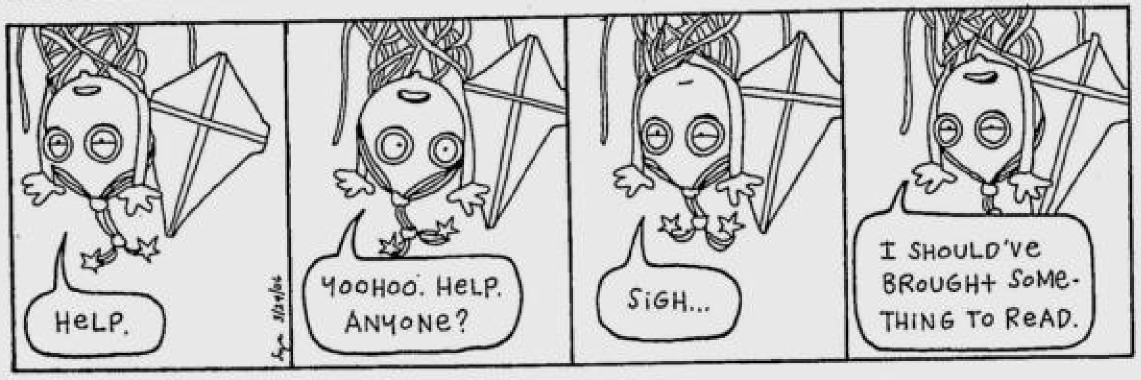
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


TWEET TWIX BRAP.
FOO TWAP WEEZ
I HATE KARAOKE NITE.
www.kingfeatures.com
muttscomics.com
3-24

ATOMO AND WEBOY

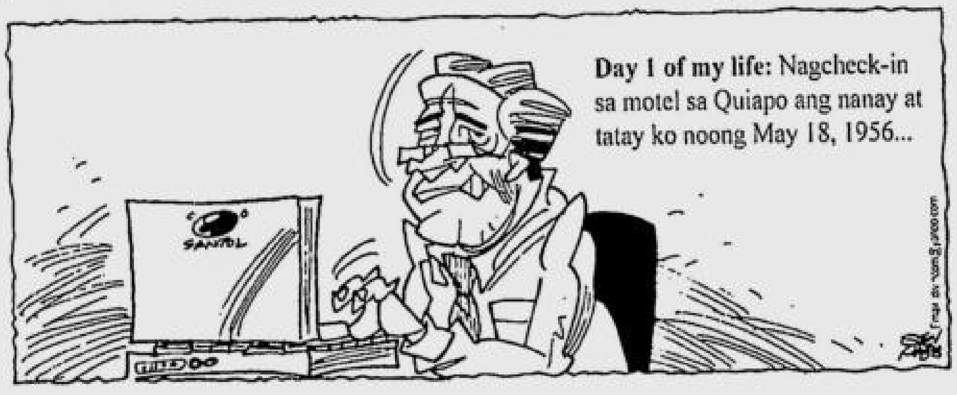
BY LYRA GARCELLANO


HeLP.
YOOHOO. HeLP. ANYONE?
SiGH...
I SHOULD'Ve BROUGHT SOMe-THING TO ReAD.

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS

ALAM MONG
TUMATANDA
KA NA KUNG
....
GUMAGAWA
KA NA NG
AUTO-
BIOGRAPHY
O MEMOIRS


Day 1 of my life: Nagcheck-in sa motel sa Quiapo ang nanay at tatay ko noong May 18, 1956...
SANTOL

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're friendly, affectionate and always adventurous! You adore exploring fresh turf—anything new! Your spontaneous approach to life brings you constant adventures and new acquaintances. You're bold and yet soft-spoken. Nevertheless, people listen to you. This year might be one of the best years of your life. Go after what you want. Open any door.

Birthdate of: Steve McQueen, actor; David Suzuki, environmentalist; Star Jones, TV personality.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a good day to make long-range plans that affect children, the arts and vacations. Create ways to have some fun! You deserve it. Decide to give yourself a nice holiday. (Commit to this.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You can be successful working with large institutions and the government today. Domestic matters in particular, can be settled. Make sure you take a long-range view of things.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Advice from someone older is worth heeding today. After all, you don't have to reinvent the wheel. Why not learn from the mistakes of those who went before you?

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Discussions with bosses are serious and practical today. People are impressed with your down-to-earth approach to things. Remember: You're a very mechanical sign.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Make plans connected with publishing, education and travel today. These plans might be for far in the future; nevertheless, it's wise to lay the groundwork now.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): What can you do today to make your long-term future more secure? Think about the resources of others and how they might benefit you. What about shared property?

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Someone older or more experienced has some advice for you. Possibly, you are the older, more-experienced individual. Either way, discussions with others are mutually beneficial today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Bosses, VIPs, parents and teachers are impressed with your efforts today. You are a strong-willed sign. When you decide to get something done, you do it!

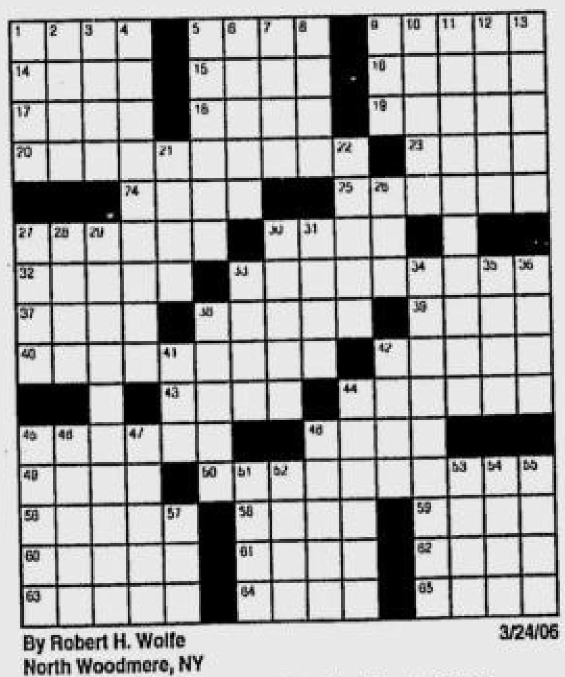
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Parents can make long-range plans for the education of children today. It's also good time to discuss future vacations and plans for a pleasant summer.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Tackle home repairs today. You might want to buy something for your home that is long-lasting and practical. Make future plans about your domestic scene or future real estate possibilities.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): This is an excellent day to sign contracts and conduct important negotiations with others. You won't overlook details. You're in a practical, solid frame of mind.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): This is a good day to begin moneymaking ventures. If you buy something, it will be practical and long-lasting. You're planning for your financial future now. (An older, more experienced mentor might help you.)

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Robert H. Wolfe
North Woodmere, NY

3/24/06

ACROSS
1 Gets by
5 Additional
9 Indy driver
14 Duran Duran's type of rock
15 Screen symbol
16 Writer Zola
17 Richard of "Chicago"
18 D-Day town
19 Stinky
20 Vends phones
23 Radar's quaff
24 Like a drum head
25 Finishes
27 Pack in a carton
30 Leg part
32 Ones with visions
33 Good dishes, perhaps
37 Pop
38 Heals
39 Early Coloradoans
40 Not quite enough
42 Rusty hinge noise
43 Challenge
44 Top prizes
45 Get the wrong sum
48 Filmmaker Riefenstahl
49 God of war
50 Be aware of change?
56 Act, biblically
58 Insert ammo
59 Capital of Qatar
60 Musician Previn
61 Zeus' consort
62 Ukrainian city
63 Actress Cicely
64 ASPCA part
65 Eld

DOWN
1 Breakfast staple
2 Swiss abstract painter
3 English noble
4 Had some suspicions
5 Slip-up
6 Two quartets together
7 Throw, as dice
8 Hydroxyl compound
9 Ring off.
10 Improve
11 Mentions locations
12 Secretary of War Root
13 Load more salsa on one's chip
21 Lip
22 Tennis champ Monica
26 Gridiron division
27 Old gas?
28 Kind of Dodge
29 Surrenders progeny
30 Wendell of "Rear Window"
31 Once more
33 Neutral shade
34 In haste
35 With no ice
36 Queries
38 Campus girls
41 Strange
42 Prez's title
44 Be sustained by
45 Furious with
46 Literary device
47 Houston player
48 Exams for would-be attys.
51 Ms. Fitzgerald
52 Negatives
53 __ Hamburgo, Brazil
54 God of thunder
55 Rescue
57 Female lobster

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

R	A	D	S		A	L	I	D	A		U	R	G	E
I	C	O	N		L	O	W	E	R		T	E	A	L
T	H	E	O	N	L	Y	O	N	E		E	N	D	S
A	E	R	O	B	E		N	A	N		N	O	S	E
			P	A	Y	S		L	A	Y	S			
S	A	M	E		W	H	O	I	S	W	I	S	E	R
P	L	E	D		A	I	R			C	L	E	T	E
O	L	D		W	Y	N	O	N	N	A		A	H	I
R	A	I	S	E			N	E	E		S	T	E	N
T	H	A	N	A	N	Y	O	N	E		P	O	L	S
			A	L	A	E		E	D	E	R			
P	R	E	P		T	S	P		L	E	A	D	E	N
L	A	P	P		I	S	E	V	E	R	Y	O	N	E
O	G	E	E		V	I	N	E	S		E	L	O	I
D	E	E	R		E	R	N	E	S		D	E	L	L

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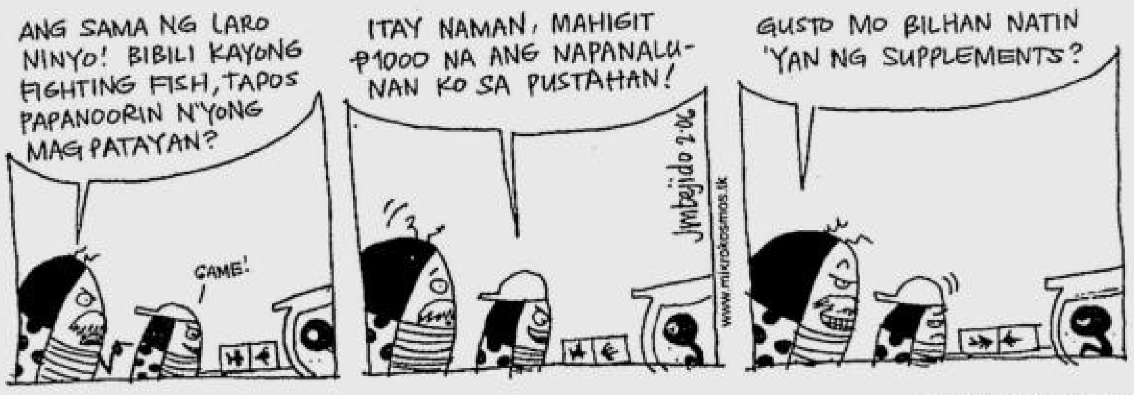
3/24/06

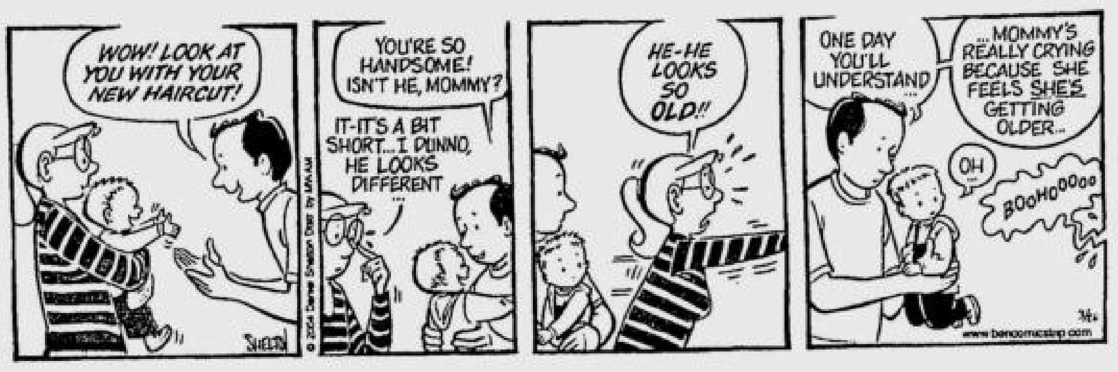
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ANG SAMA NG LARO NINYO! BIBILI KAYONG FIGHTING FISH, TAPOS PAPANOORIN N'YONG MAG PATAYAN?
GAME!
ITAY NAMAN, MAHIGIT ₱1000 NA ANG NAPANALUNAN KO SA PUSTAHAN!
Jmtejido 2-06
www.mikrokosmos.tk
GUSTO MO BILHAN NATIN 'YAN NG SUPPLEMENTS?

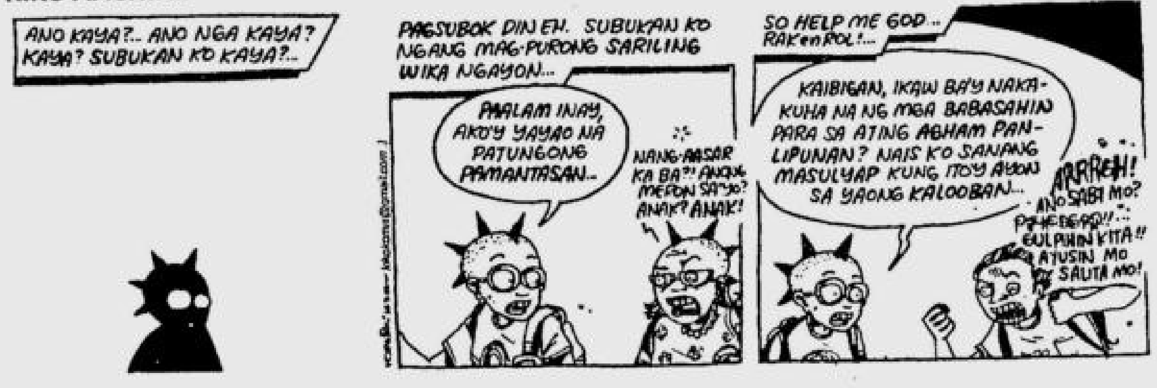
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


WOW! LOOK AT YOU WITH YOUR NEW HAIRCUT!
SHELTON
YOU'RE SO HANDSOME! ISN'T HE, MOMMY?
IT-IT'S A BIT SHORT... I DUNNO, HE LOOKS DIFFERENT
HE-HE LOOKS SO OLD!!
ONE DAY YOU'LL UNDERSTAND
...MOMMY'S REALLY CRYING BECAUSE SHE FEELS SHE'S GETTING OLDER...
OH
BOOHOOOOO
www.bencomicstrip.com

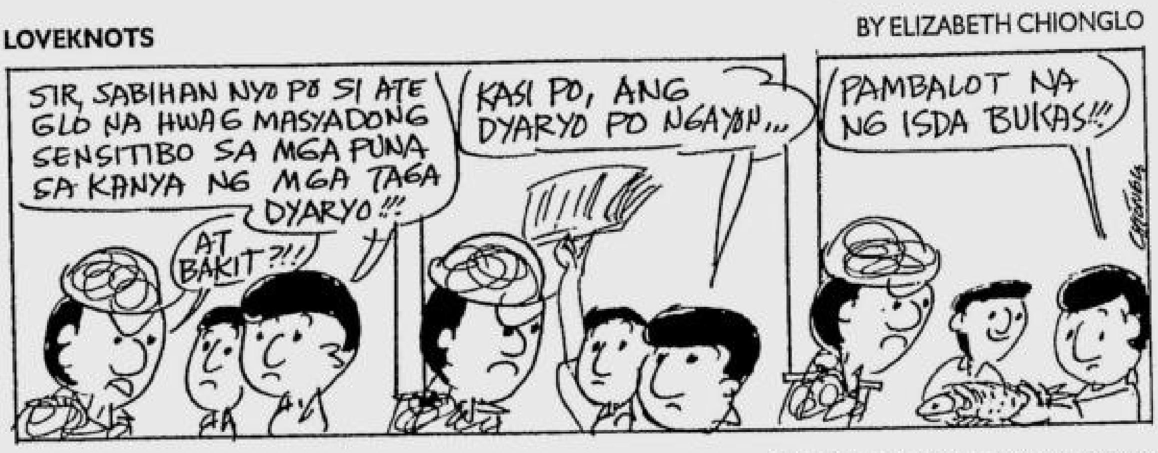
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


ANO KAYA?.. ANO NGA KAYA? KAYA? SUBUKAN KO KAYA?..
PAGSUBOK DIN EH. SUBUKAN KO NGANG MAG-PURONG SARILING WIKA NGAYON...
PAALAM INAY, AKO'Y YAYAO NA PATUNGONG PAMANTASAN...
NANG-AASAR KA BA?! ANOK MERON SA'YO? ANAK? ANAK!
SO HELP ME GOD... RAK en ROL!...
KAIBIGAN, IKAW BA'Y NAKAKUHA NA NG MGA BABASAHIN PARA SA ATING AGHAM PANLIPUNAN? NAIS KO SANANG MASULYAP KUNG ITO'Y AYON SA YAONG KALOOBAN...
ARRREH! ANO SABI MO? PSHEDEAD!!.. BULPHIN KITA!! AYUSIN MO SALITA MO!

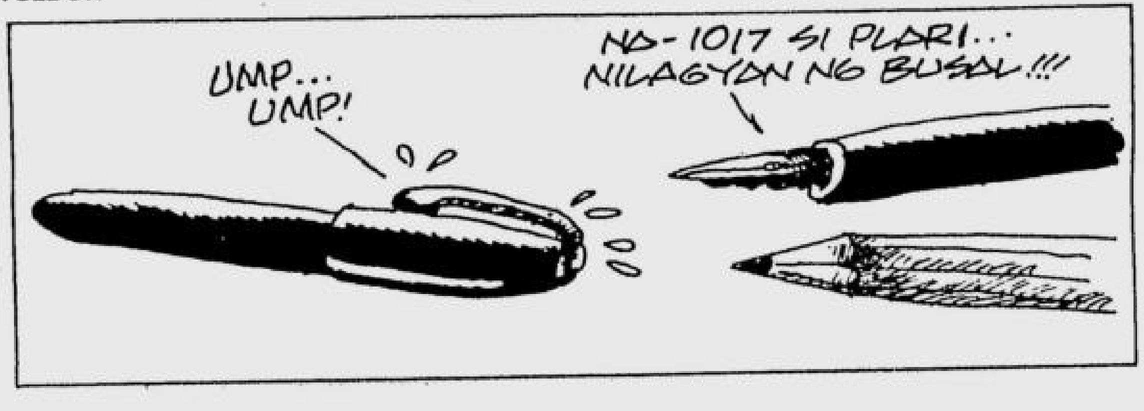
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


SIR, SABIHAN NYO PO SI ATE GLO NA HWAG MASYADONG SENSITIBO SA MGA PUNA SA KANYA NG MGA TAGA DYARYO!!!
AT BAKIT?!!
KASI PO, ANG DYARYO PO NGAYON...
PAMBALOT NA NG ISDA BUKAS!!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


UMP... UMP!
NA-1017 SI PLARI... NILAGYAN NG BUSAL!!!

ENTERTAINMENT

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

Text us your feedback: inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Gov't offers loans to producers

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

Film council launches financial scheme to generate activity in the industry

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

THE GOVERNMENT IS OFFERING LOANS to movie producers.

In an exclusive interview with INQUIRER Entertainment, Rolando "Jacky" Atienza, head of the Film Development Council of the Philippines, announced that the agency will launch the Film Fund next month.

"A business model-financing scheme" was how Atienza described Film Fund. "[It] will offer loans to qualifying producers, in a bid to generate activity in the local film industry."

Since these will be "soft" loans, Atienza said, there will be zero interest. "Basically, repayment will come in the form of the assignment of the ancillary rights (TV/cable, home video sales) to the FDCP for six years."

He added: "[Each loan is pegged at] P5 million or 40 percent of the total project cost, or whichever is lower."

The FDCP is currently drafting the rules that will govern the Film Fund.

"If the producer [eventually] succeeds in selling the ancillary rights [to another party] for the amount of the granted loan—or less—that's OK," he explained. "If the proceeds are higher than the loan, the excess goes to the producer—we will just recover the principal. The producer can also buy back the ancillary rights anytime."

According to Atienza, the core of the Film Fund will come from the Special Fund (SF) raised from the amusement-tax rebates granted by the Cinema Evaluation Board. (Former FDCP head Laurice Guillen earlier said that, at the time of her departure late last year, there was P28 million in the SF.)

"We will start small, with P25 million," Atienza said. "Stimulating activity in the industry will attract new investors."

GOV'T/ A2-4

TV soaps lull viewers into inaction

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

"ASIAN NOVELAS" FROM South Korea and Taiwan are hits on the local TV screen. So many of them are being telecast that some of our own TV people are complaining that they're losing out in terms of job prospects to these Asian "Invaders."

True, this is much better than the time, some years ago, when Latin American or Spanish telenovelas held sway on the local boob tube.

At least, these new "invaders" have Asian faces that look closer to ours, while the Spanish soaps more clearly fed off our "deathless" colonial mentality.

Another plus point is the Asian telenovelas' fresher approach to dramatization and production. They still resort to melodramatic plot and character cliches, but they sometimes offer up more innovative approaches that challenge their local counterparts to be similarly creative in the way they do things.

Ultimately, however, the TV picture ends up on the dark and negative side, because the Asian shows indulge in

TV/ A2-4

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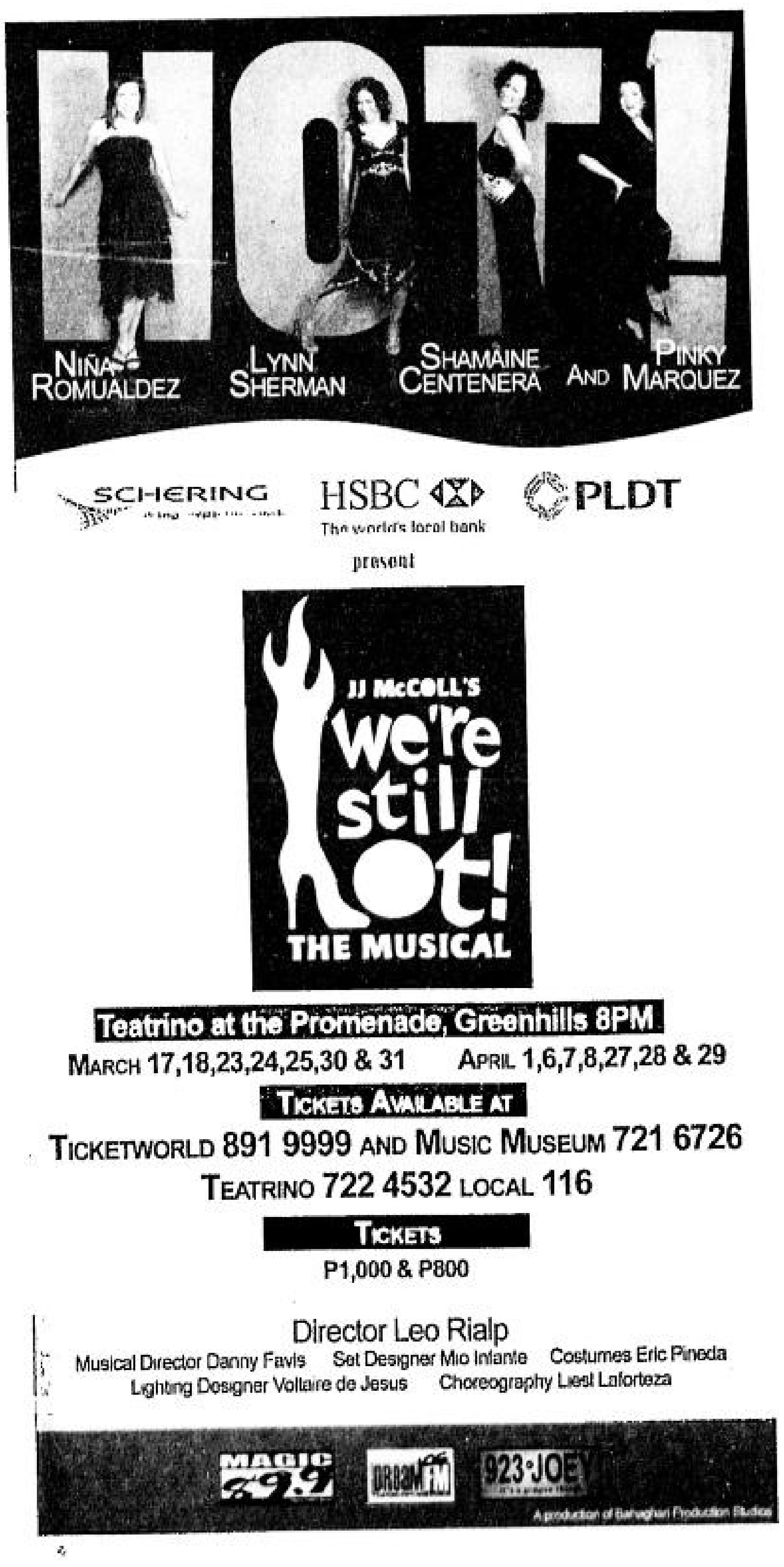

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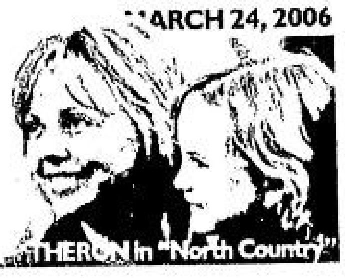
THERON in "North Country"

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

REVIEW

GENDER issues are unflinchingly addressed in the Charlize Theron-starrer "North Country," inspired by the true story of a landmark class action lawsuit against an American mining company's misogynistic work environment almost 20 years ago. Unabashedly an underdog-shows-'em-all tearjerker, "North Country" intersperses courtroom drama with lengthy flashbacks that cross-examine Theron's crusading character Josey Aimes and her Minnesota hometown's attitudes about gender roles. But while the picture has many well-timed emotional stimuli in place, it also conveys its female empowerment messages without overt preaching.

To the point

These lessons are made clear from the outset. Josey, raising her two kids by herself, works in the iron mines where her father (Richard Jenkins) has labored for decades. Braving the unglamorous but high-paying job, Josey is finally in control of her life, or so she thinks. Unwelcome in the workplace, she and her female co-workers are the collective butt of jokes for the male miners.

The film's trusty triumvirate of previous Oscar Best Actresses make up a diverse bunch—Theron as the young mother with a checklist of tragedies, Frances McDormand as her gutsy gal pal and Sissy Spacek as Josey's silently suffering mom—and are key representations of very human, very female perspectives. These archetypes have dimensions to their personalities that keep them rightly flawed, so we feel firsthand the odds stacked against them, and women in general.

The storytelling is simple and to the point—we all know where the story's heading—but filmmaker Niki Caro ("Whale Rider") knows how to play to the cast's strengths, so the ride is made as fulfilling as the obvious, vindicating destination. The compelling jigsaw puzzle is slowly but enthusiastically formed with the presence of impeccably cast male scene-stealers, such as Jenkins, Woody Harrelson (as Josey's reluctant but hopeful lawyer) and Sean Bean (as a smart nice guy, for a change).

"North Country" has melodramatic, obviously contrived Oscar-hopeful moments, but since the Josey character is primarily more fleshed out because of them, the occasional sappiness is forgivable.

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 NANNY MCPHEE
MTRCB: GP
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2 ULTRAVIOLET
MTRCB. PG-13
1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00 LMF

3 SHE'S THE MAN
MTRCB. PG-13
2:00, 4:25, 6:50, 9:15 LMF

4 GLORY ROAD
MTRCB: GP
2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00 LMF

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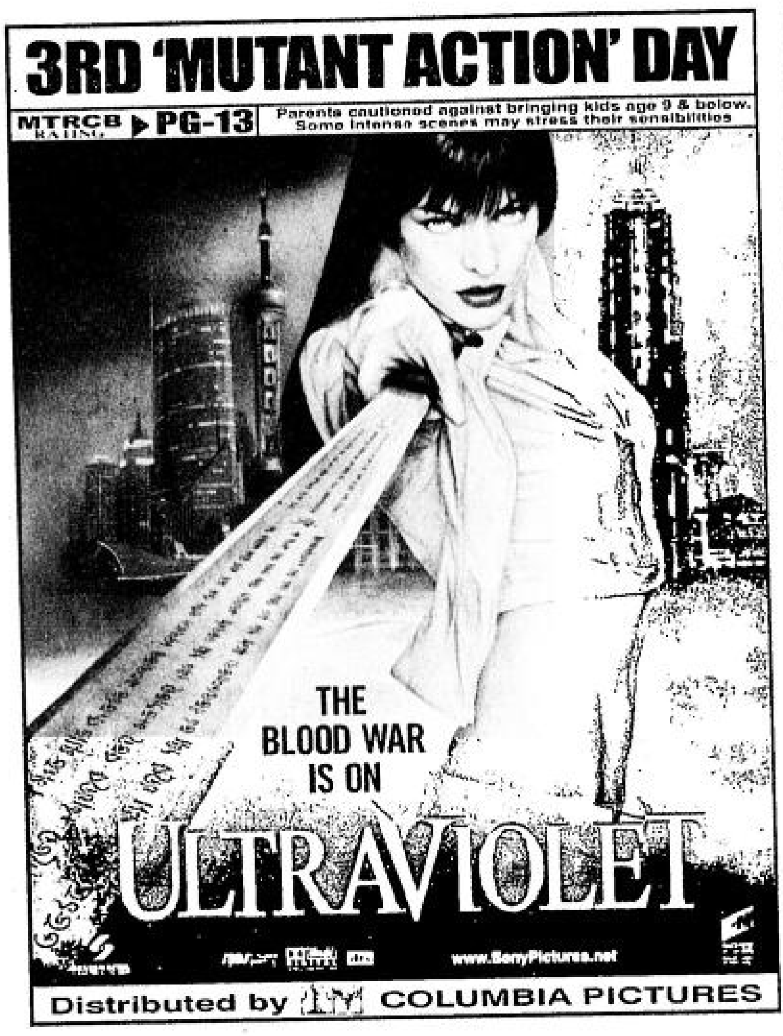
R-13

2 ULTRA VIOLET
12:05, 2:15, 4:25, 6:35, 8:45, 11:00
PG-13

3 NANNY McPHEE
1:20, 3:45, 6:10, 8:35, 11:00
G

4 GLORY ROAD
12:30, 3:10, 5:50, 8:30, 11:00
G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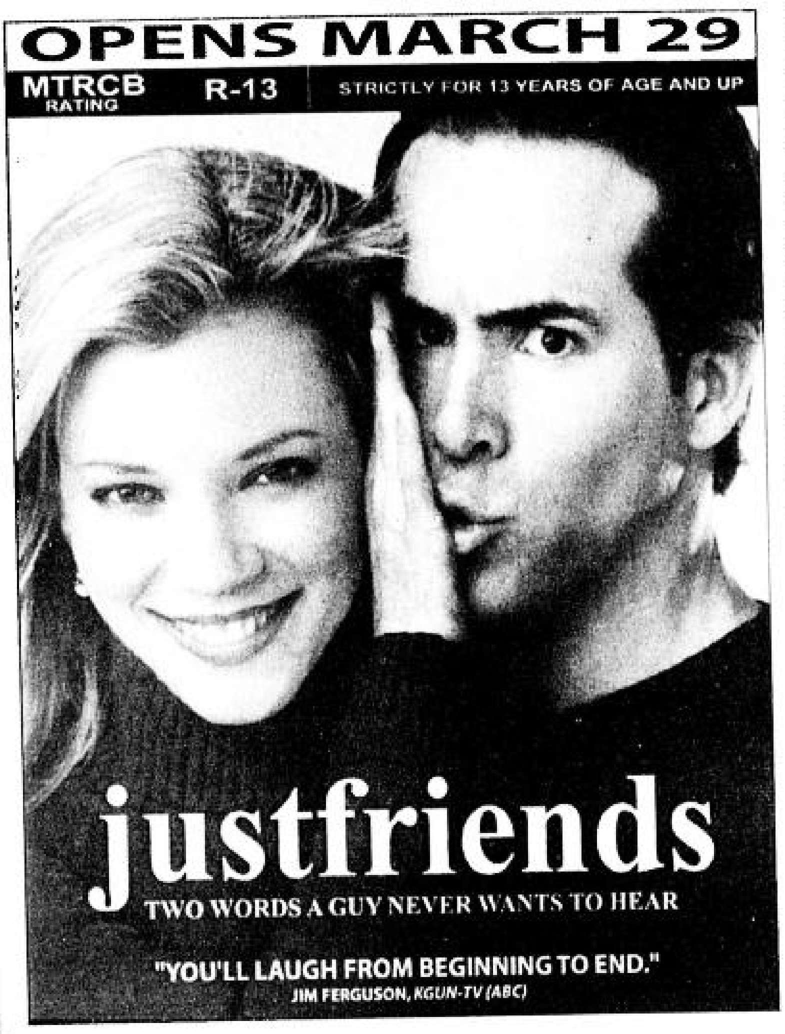
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TWO WORDS A GUY NEVER WANTS TO HEAR
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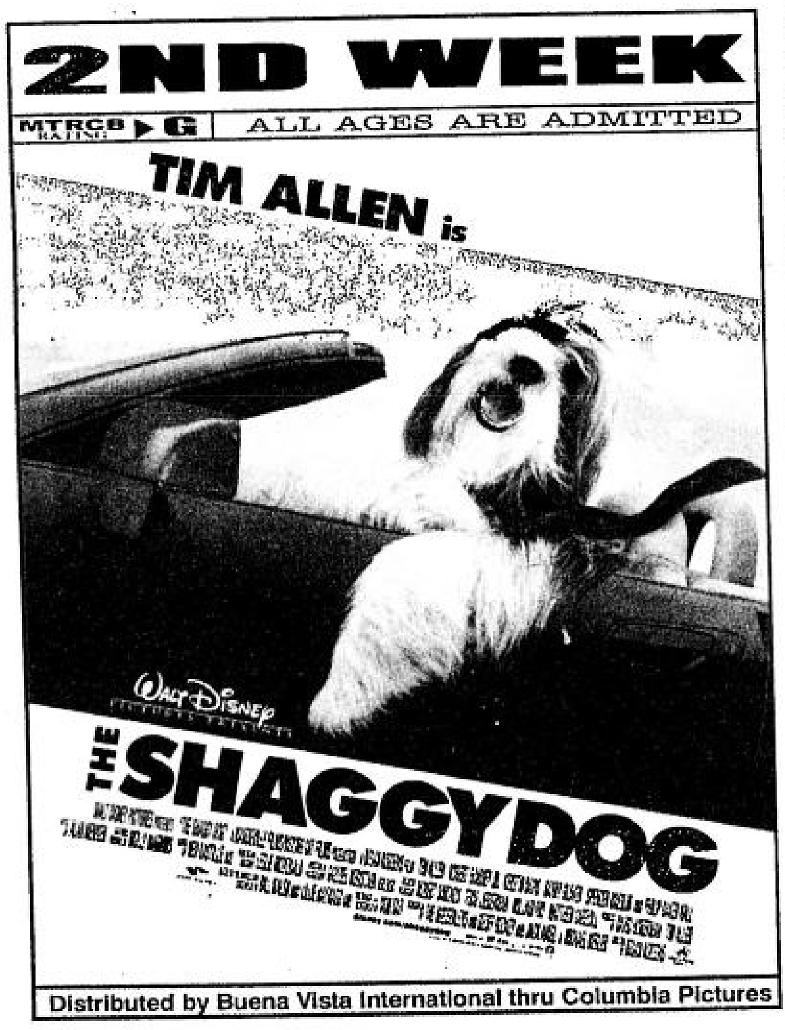
JIM FERGUSON, KGUN-TV (ABC)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TIM ALLEN is
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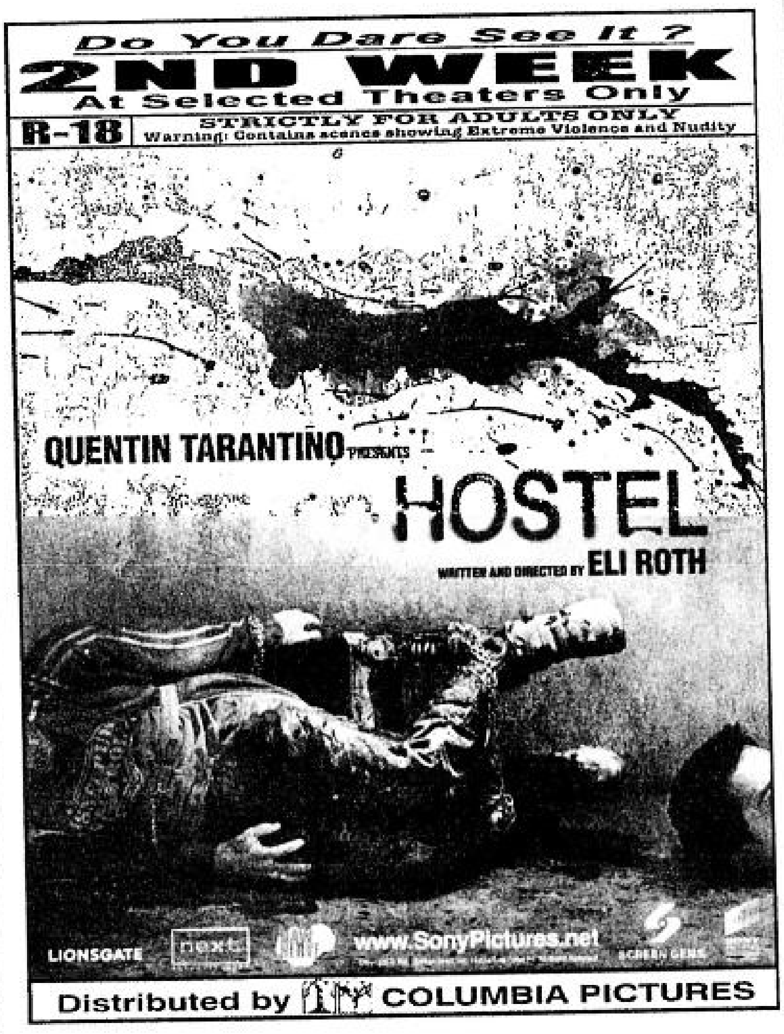
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SHE'S THE MAN PG13 1:45,3:55,6:05, 8:15,10:25	NANNY MCPHEE G 12:30,2:50,5:10, 7:30,9:50	NORTH COUNTRY R13 12:15,2:45,5:15, 7:45,10:15
GLORY ROAD G 12:15,2:45,5:15, 7:45,10:15	V FOR VENDETTA R13 1:30,4:20,7:10,10:00	ULTRAVIOLET PG13 2:00,4:00,6:00, 8:00,10:00

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11:45 , 2:05 , 4:20, 6:35 , 8:50 GP

CINEMA 5 ULTRAVIOLET
10:45 , 1:05 , 3:20, 5:35 , 7:50 , 10:10 PG13

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MARCH 31 ,2006	RAYMOND LAUCHENGCO	8:00PM

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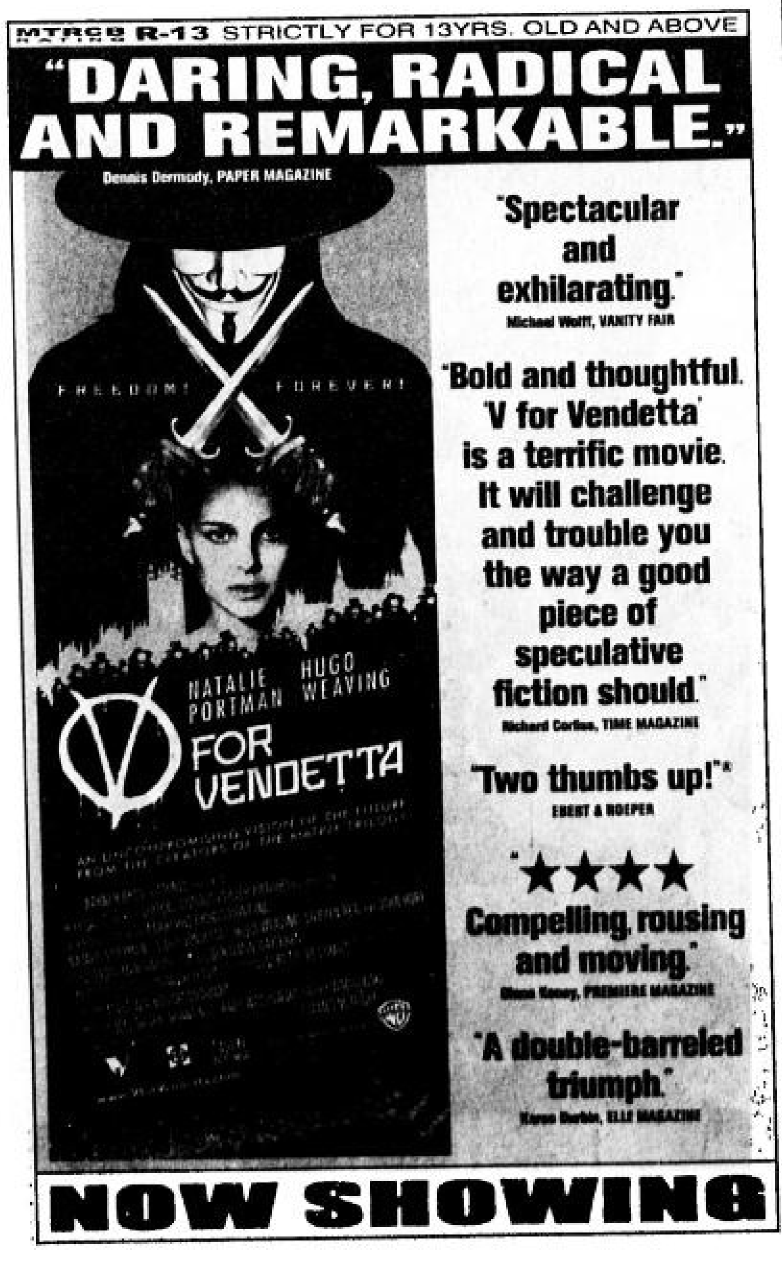
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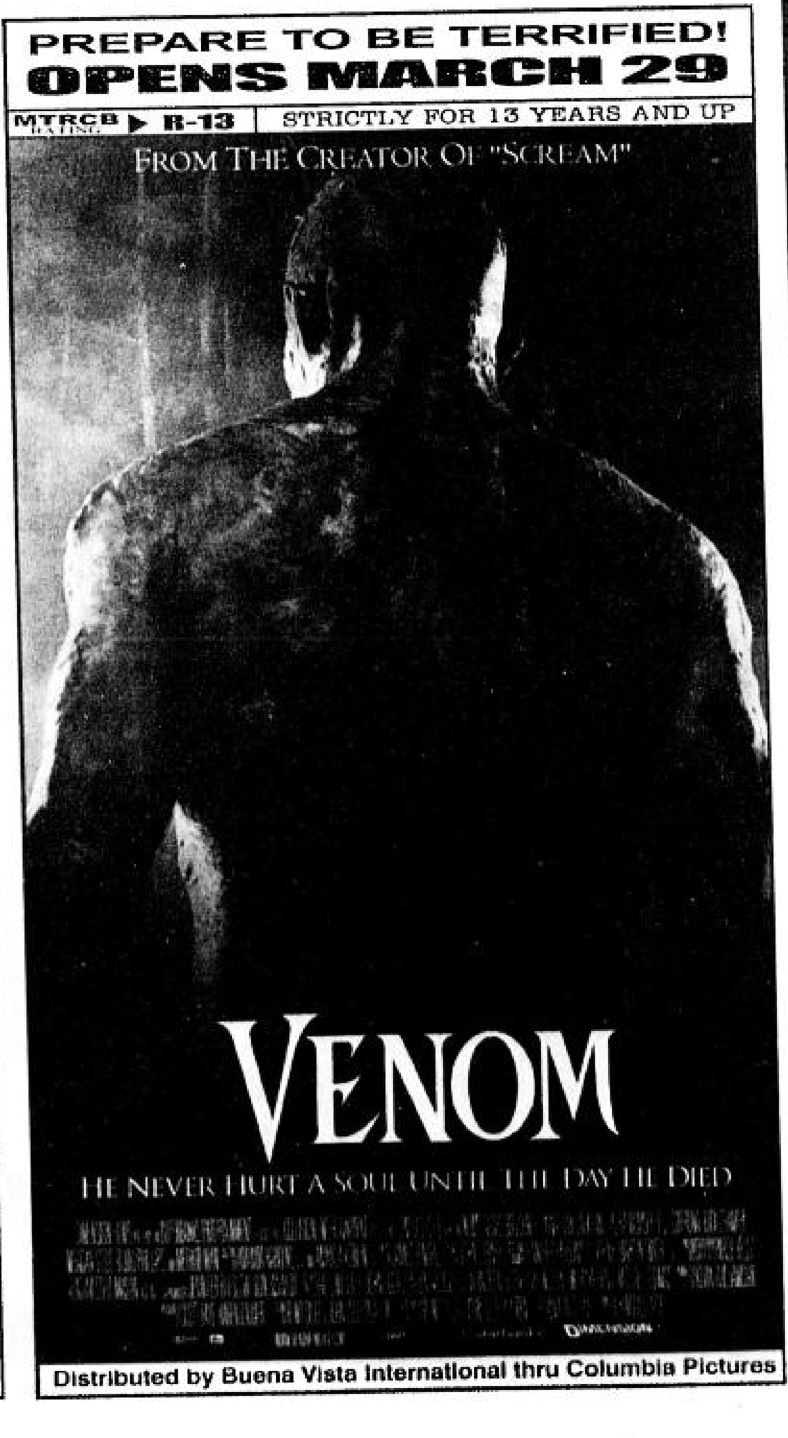
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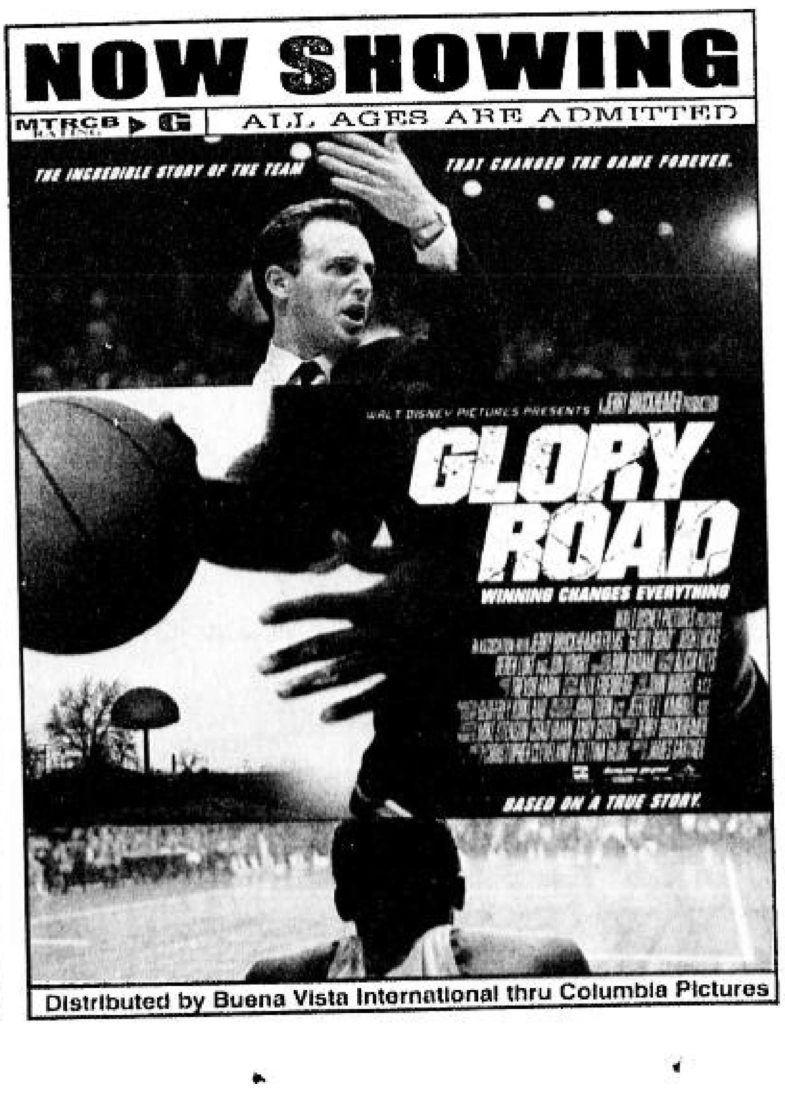
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ENTERTAINMENT ROUNDUP

PILAR Pilapil, Boots Anson-Roa and Ricardo Cepeda

Pilar's story

SHE has one of the most beautiful faces in show business. And yet actress Pilar Pilapil's recently launched autobiography is titled "The Woman Without a Face."

Pilar's explanation is, she's been through situations that made her feel she couldn't face anyone. She is dedicating the book to young women who are just starting out, so they can learn from her experiences.

The book traces Pilar's life from her childhood in Cebu, through her years as a beauty queen, controversial actress, to what she calls her "redemption."

Essentially, she said, her story is one of "stardom, sin and salvation."

Pilar is promoting her book via a mall tour that kicks off March 31 at National Bookstore Shangri-la and ends April 2 at Powerbooks Alabang. Call 512-1501.

WONG Kar-wai

Wong directs Brits

HONG KONG—Acclaimed Hong Kong director Wong Kar-wai has cast British actor Jude Law and Oscar-winner Rachel Weisz in his first English-language movie, reports said Wednesday.

Grammy-winning jazz singer Norah Jones will make her acting debut on the film, which begins shooting in June, Wong was quoted as saying by Apple Daily and the Oriental Daily News. *AFP*

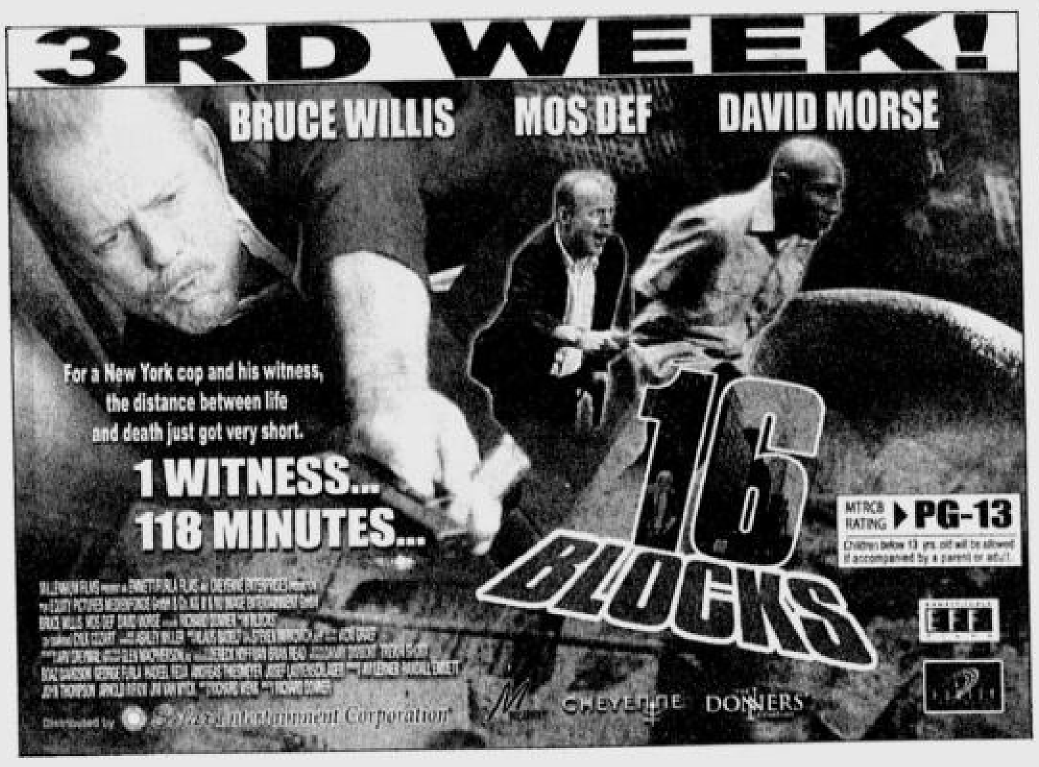
TONY Parker and Eva Longoria

BF knows best

LOS ANGELES—Eva Longoria, desperate to set the record straight, took to the entertainment news shows to tell the world that her beau, NBA star Tony Parker, is aces in the bedroom.

File it under Too Much Information, but Longoria on Tuesday told "Extra" and "Access Hollywood" that "when the lights are out, he's the teacher."

The revelation came in response to an article in the latest Allure magazine that quotes the actress as saying that in matters of love, she was "the experienced one." International magazines seized the story, concluding—wrongfully, Longoria stressed—that Parker is a lousy lover. *AP*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2 (DOLBY)	ULTRAVIOLET PG13
3 (DOLBY)	SHE'S THE MAN PG13
4 (DOLBY)	GLORY ROAD GP

PREMIERE

(DOLBY)	NORTH COUNTRY R13

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Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216

1	V FOR VENDETTA
2	NANNY MCPHEE
3	GLORY ROAD
4	ULTRAVIOLET

starmall EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150

3	HOSTEL
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
5	ULTRAVIOLET

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433994

1	HOUSE OF FURY
2	ULTRAVIOLET
3	VENDETTA
4	FINAL DESTINATION 3

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NE Pacific Mall Cabanatuan, Telephone No. (044) 600-3025

1	16 BLOCKS
2	DATE MOVIE
3	FEARLESS

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena tel (042) 660-6771

1	AEON FLUX
2	DATE MOVIE
3	RESERVED
4	RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS)	SHAGGY DOG
2 (SDDS)	FINAL DESTINATION
3 (DTS)	SHE'S THE MAN
4 GOLD (DTS)	V FOR VENDETTA
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	NANNY MCPHEE
6 GOLD (SDDS)	ULTRAVIOLET
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	GLORY ROAD
8 (DOLBY STEREO)	HOSTEL
9 (DOLBY STEREO)	NORTH COUNTRY
10 (DOLBY STEREO)	16 BLOCKS

Blue Wave MARQUINTON
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927

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2 (DOLBY)	NANNY MCPHEE
3 (DOLBY)	ULTRAVIOLET
4 (DOLBY)	RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228

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2	ULTRAVIOLET
3	GLORY ROAD
4	NANNY MCPHEE
5	V FOR VENDETTA

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2	V FOR VENDETTA
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2	V FOR VENDETTA
3	HOUSE OF FURY

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(Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)

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2	DATE MOVIE

Jade Cinema
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2	CASANOVA
3 (DTS EX)	FINAL DESTINATION
4	V FOR VENDETTA

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121

1	RESERVED
2	RESERVED
3 (DOLBY)	RESERVED
4 (DTS)	RESERVED

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489

1	16 BLOCKS
2	DATE MOVIE
3 (DOLBY)	FEARLESS
4	THE DARK B/W HISTORY OF VIOLENCE

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
2	FEARLESS

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
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2 (DOLBY)	ULTRAVIOLET
3 (DOLBY)	NANNY MCPHEE
4 (DOLBY)	GLORY ROAD

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3 (DOLBY)	16 BLOCKS
4	ST. ANGIE

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Binan) tel. (049) 4111146

1	ST. ANGIE
2 (DOLBY)	BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
3 (DTS)	CASANOVA
4	16 BLACKS

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	FEARLESS
2	DATE MOVIE
3 (DOLBY)	16 BLOCKS

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

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2	THE DESCENT
3 (DOLBY)	CASANOVA
4 (DTS)	AEON FLUX

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320

1	V FOR VENDETTA
2	SAW-2
3 (DOLBY)	SHAGGY DOG

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan)

1	16 BLOCKS
2	DATE MOVIE

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748

1	HOSTEL
2	EVIL EYE

Lianas Cinema
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1 (SDDS)	SNAKE CHARMER
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1 (DOLBY)	16 BLOCKS
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3 (DTS)	BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
4	ST. ANGIE
5	CASANOVA

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	UNANG TIKIM
2	CASANOVA
3	DATE MOVIE
4	SHAGGY DOG

Berma Cinema
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THE PERSON YOU NEED IS
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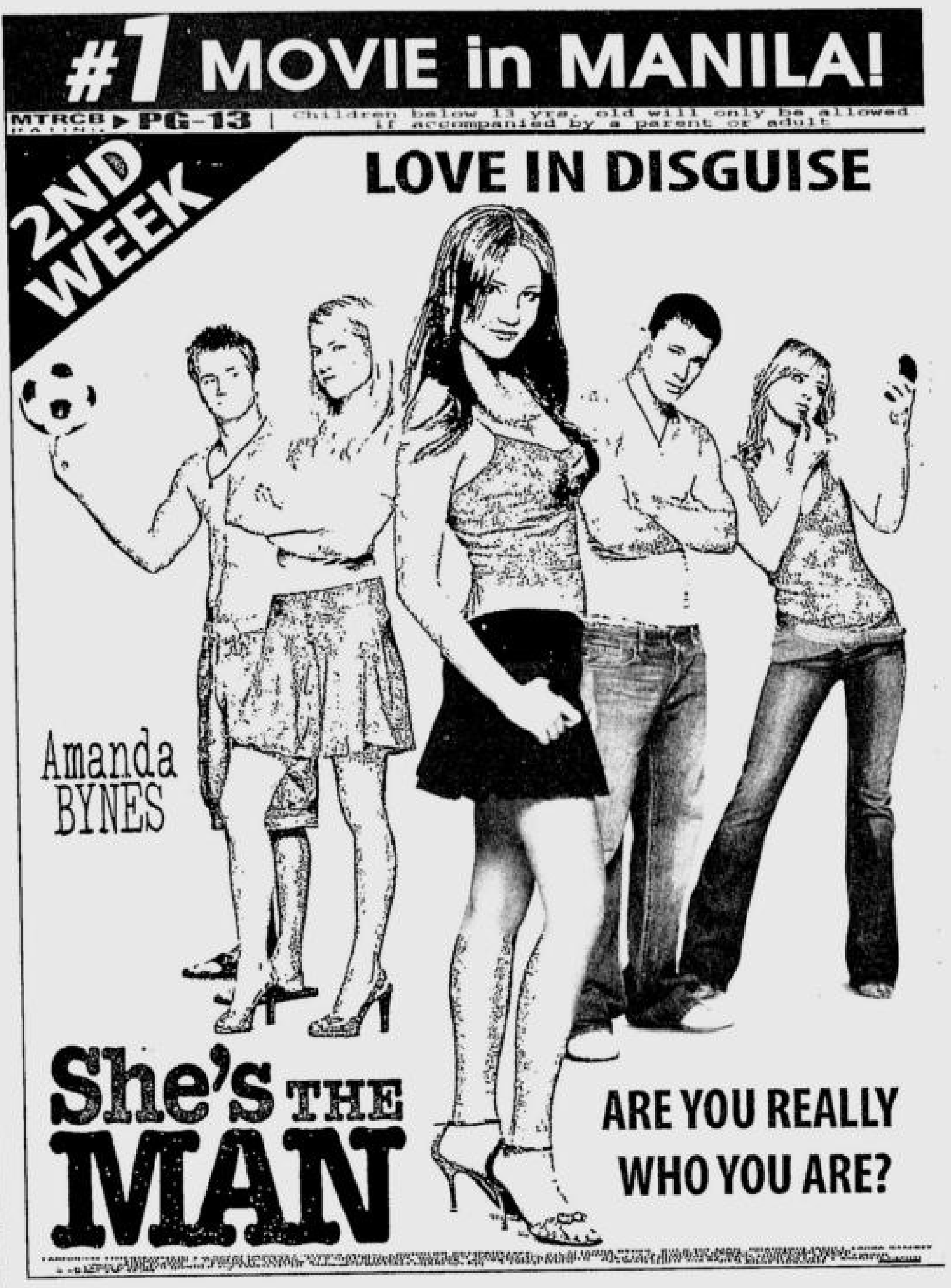
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Amanda BYNES
She's THE MAN
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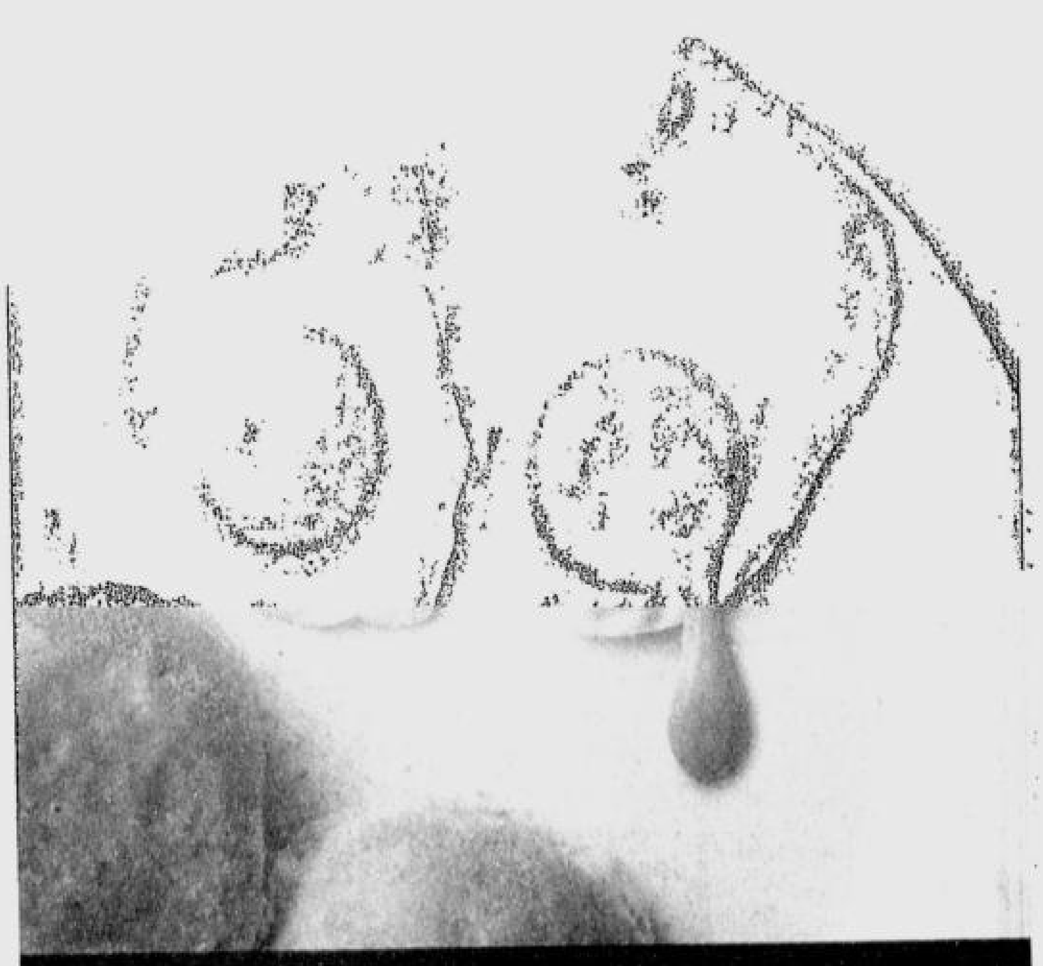

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METRO MANILA

THE PODIUM CINEMA

NORTH COUNTRY
12:30 FS / 12:50 MF / 03:30
06:10 / 08:20 LFS
08:50 LMF / 11:00 END

NANNY McPHEE
02:00 FS / 02:25 MF / 04:35
06:45 / 8:25LFS
09:00 LMF / 10:40 END

SM MEGACINEMA

1 ULTRAVIOLET
10:15FS / 10:40 MF / 12:30 /
02:20 / 04:10 / 6:00 / 7:50
09:10LFS / 09:40 LMF
11:10 END
2 V FOR VENDETTA
3 SHE'S THE MAN
4 RESERVED
5 NORTH COUNTRY
6 NANNY McPHEE
7 FEARLESS
8 SHAGGY DOG
9 16 BLOCKS
10 FINAL DESTINATION 3
11 THE DARK
12 GLORY ROAD

SM CITY NORTH EDSA

1 HALE LIVE CONCERT
2 GLORY ROAD
3 NORTH COUNTRY
4 RESERVED
5 NANNY McPHEE
6 SHE'S THE MAN
7 V FOR VENDETTA
8 ULTRAVIOLET

SM CITY DASMARINAS

1 THE DARK
2 UNDERCLASS MAN
3 SHAGGY DOG
4 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW

1 FEARLESS
2 HOUSE OF FURY
3 THE DARK
4 V FOR VENDETTA
5 FINAL DESTINATION 3
6 GLORY ROAD
7 ULTRAVIOLET
8 NANNY McPHEE
9 SHE'S THE MAN
10 16 BLOCKS
11 CLOSE TO YOU
12 SHAGGY DOG

SM CITY STA. MESA

1 ULTRAVIOLET
2 V FOR VENDETTA
3 GLORY ROAD
4 FINAL DESTINATION 3
5 SHE'S THE MAN
6 FEARLESS
7 NANNY McPHEE
8 16 BLOCKS
9 NORTH COUNTRY
10 SHAGGY DOG

SM CITY BICUTAN

1 ULTRAVIOLET
2 HOUSE OF FURY
3 THE DARK
4 V FOR VENDETTA

SM CITY SAN LAZARO

1 ULTRAVIOLET
2 SHAGGY DOG
3 V FOR VENDETTA
4 FINAL DESTINATION 3
5 SHE'S THE MAN
6 NANNY McPHEE

SM CITY MANILA

1 ULTRAVIOLET
2 16 BLOCKS
3 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
4 SHE'S THE MAN
5 NANNY McPHEE
6 V FOR VENDETTA
7 GLORY ROAD
8 FEARLESS
9 FINAL DESTINATION 3
10 SHAGGY DOG
11 THE DARK
12 NORTH COUNTRY

SM CITY SOUTHMALL

1 ULTRAVIOLET
2 16 BLOCKS
3 NORTH COUNTRY
4 V FOR VENDETTA
5 NANNY McPHEE
6 GLORY ROAD
7 SHE'S THE MAN
8 FINAL DESTINATION 3
9 FEARLESS
10 RESERVED

SM SUPERCENTER VALENZUELA

1 SHAGGY DOG
2 FINAL DESTINATION 3
3 HOUSE OF FURY
4 GLORY ROAD

SM CITY SUCAT

1 HOUSE OF FURY
2 ULTRAVIOLET
3 V FOR VENDETTA
4 16 BLOCKS

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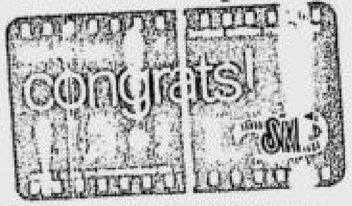

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LUZON

SM CITY BAGUIO

1 16 BLOCKS
2 SHAGGY DOG
3 THE DARK
4 V FOR VENDETTA

SM CITY MARILAO

1 V FOR VENDETTA
2 HOUSE OF FURY
3 SHAGGY DOG
4 THE DARK

SM CITY BATANGAS

1 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
2 THE DARK
3 FEARLESS
4 AEON FLUX

SM CITY BACOOR

1 FEARLESS
2 SHAGGY DOG
3 V FOR VENDETTA
4 GLORY ROAD
5 FINAL DESTINATION 3
6 SHE'S THE MAN
7 HOUSE OF FURY
8 BREAKING NEWS

SM CITY STA. ROSA

1 CASANOVA
2 FINAL DESTINATION 3
3 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
4 16 BLOCKS

SM CITY PAMPANGA

1 SYRIANA
2 SHAGGY DOG
3 FINAL DESTINATION 3
4 V FOR VENDETTA
5 THE DARK
6 16 BLOCKS

SM CITY LUCENA

1 FEARLESS
2 SHAGGY DOG
3 SYRIANA
4 AEON FLUX

SM CITY MOLINO

1 SHAGGY DOG
2 HOUSE OF FURY
3 V FOR VENDETTA
4 CRY WOLF

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU

1 SYRIANA
12:00FS / 12:18 MF
02:36 / 04:54
07:12 / 09:20 LFS
09:30 LMF / 11:40 END
2 CASANOVA
12:00FS / 12:18 MF
02:36 / 04:54
07:12 / 09.03 LFS
09:30 LMF / 11:20 END
3 V FOR VENDETTA
11:15FS / 11:30 MF
02:00 / 04:30
07:00 / 09:15 LFS
09:30 LMF / 11:45 END
4 LAST HOLIDAY
5 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
6 FEARLESS
7 NEW WORLD
8 HOUSE OF FURY

SM CITY ILOILO

1 FEARLESS
2 RESERVED
3 SYRIANA
4 CRY WOLF
5 V FOR VENDETTA
6 SHAGGY DOG
7 RESERVED
8 PRIDE & PREJUDICE

SM CITY DAVAO

1 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
2 GOAL
3 V FOR VENDETTA
4 FINAL DESTINATION 3
5 PRIDE & PREJUDICE
6 NEW WORLD

SM CITY CAGAYAN

1 NEW WORLD
2 RESERVED
3 16 BLOCKS
4 YOUR'S MINE & OURS

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GALLERIA 632-9116

1 NORTH COUNTRY • THX
1:35 4:20 7:05 9:50

2 NANNY MCPHEE
1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00

3 GLORY ROAD
11:30 2:05 4:40 7:15 9:50

4 V FOR VENDETTA
1:20 4:10 7:00 9:50

5 ULTRAVIOLET
11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

6 SHE'S THE MAN
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

7 CO-ED SCANDAL
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

8 CASANOVA
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

9 HOSTEL
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

10 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN
1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 NANNY MCPHEE
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

2 HOSTEL 12:30 2:30
V FOR VENDETTA 4:40 7:20 9:50

3 ULTRAVIOLET
12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00

4 CO-ED SCANDAL
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 9:50

5 SHE'S THE MAN
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

6 GLORY ROAD
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

7 NORTH COUNTRY
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 HOUSE OF FURY
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

2 NANNY MCPHEE
11:45 2:05 4:25 6:45 9:05

3 SHE'S THE MAN
1:40 4:00 6.30 9:00

4 V FOR VENDETTA
1:10 3:50 6:30 9:00

5 HOSTEL
1:00 3:00 5.00 7:000 9:00

6 ULTRAVIOLET
12:10 2:25 4:40 6:55 9:10

7 GLORY ROAD
1:00 3:40 6:20 9:00

8 CO-ED SCANDAL
12:15 2:00 3:45 5:30 7:15 9:00

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 ULTRAVIOLET
2 GLORY ROAD
3 HOSTEL
4 V FOR VENDETTA
5 NANNY MCPHEE

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 HOSTEL
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3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

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1 CASANOVA
2 SYRIANA
3 SHAGGY DOG
4 DATE MOVIE

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332

1 DATE MOVIE
2 TIGER BLADE
3 V FOR VENDETTA
4 THE DARK
5 SHAGGY DOG

ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 SYRIANA
2 CASANOVA
3 FINAL DESTINATION 3
4 16 BLOCKS

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 GLORY ROAD
2 HOSTEL
3 V FOR VENDETTA
4 HOUSE OF FURY

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-5270

1 TIGER BLADE
2 MURDER
3 SHAGGY DOG
4 V FOR VENDETTA
5 SYRIANA
6 THE DARK

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0459

1 16 BLOCKS
2 DATE MOVIE
3 CASANOVA
4 GOAL
5 PRIDE AND PREJUDICE
6 V FOR VENDETTA

ILOILO (033) 336-8070

1 V FOR VENDETTA
2 SHAGGY DOG
3 DATE MOVIE
4 PRIDE AND PREJUDICE
5 SYRIANA

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Gov't offers loans ...

From page A2-1

He said the loan will be released when two-thirds of principal photography is finished.

FDCP is prioritizing "quality, artistic films," Atienza stressed.

To ensure this, the council is eyeing National Artist for Film Eddie Romero to chair the Selection Committee, and CEB chair Christine Dayrit for the Monitoring Committee.

Dayrit said applicants should submit a prospectus, which she defined as "a project proposal that contains all the details—the screenplay, budget, costing and casting."

Atienza and Dayrit said that a similar concept was tried in the Marcos years, with the Experimental Cinema of the Philippines. "It failed because the monitoring and the entire approach were faulty and the funds were soon dissipated," Atienza said.

Should the pilot project work, Atienza said, the FDCP could proceed to tap other sources of funds, like the private sector and institutions.

"We want to prove that financial assistance [to the movie industry] will not be wasted," he said. "We want to show that we can recover and recycle the money and generate more funds."

TV soaps lull ...

From page A2-1

romantic and melodramatic fantasy and escapism, so they exacerbate local TV's general tendency to encourage viewers to run away form reality, instead of confronting it.

At a time when our political and social realities are so fraught with difficulties, this is a disservice that more responsible TV people should reconsider, and desist from performing, don't you think?

And viewers should also resist these shows' escapists blandishments, because they lull us into inaction. Desist and resist—that's it!

Red Carpet 2006

THE NIGHT before we left for a 10-day stay in Turkey, we joined the chic film buffs and diners at the Red Carpet Oscars 2006 event presented by Solar Entertainment at the Mandarin Hotel's Captain's Bar.

Thanks to **Wilson Tieng** and **Charisse Chuidian**, we were able to savor, not just a delayed telecast (without commercials) of the Academy Awards, but also some *haute* fashions and cuisine, plus delectable movie music performed by the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra.

This was only the second time that the Red Carpet dinner-show was being staged, but it looks like it's well on its way to becoming an annual event.

Are you still hot?

SHOW TIME

"WE'RE STILL HOT! The Musical" is still running at Teatrino in Greenhills. The play, about women "of a certain age," premiered last week and repeats tonight and tomorrow and again on March 30 and 31, and April 1, 6, 7 and 8. Call 891-9999 or 722-4532.

Tonight
The UP Concert Chorus goes onstage with "Pamamaalam" before embarking on its seven-month "MusiKapistahan" world tour. "Pamamaalam," at the Church of the Risen Lord in UP Diliman, features gospel, Broadway, folk and pop songs. Repeat tomorrow at the Philamlife Auditorium on UN Avenue, Manila. Call (0917) 856-8895.

***

Jazz singer Isha, who was signed by the independent British label Candid Records in 2004, performs with her band, The Look, at the Shangri-la Mall in Mandaluyong, 7 p.m.

Tomorrow
Winston Wings Tour 2006 kicks off with a free street concert on Ma. Orosa and J. Nakpil Streets in Malate, Manila, 7 p.m., featuring Bamboo, Parokya ni Edgar and Sugarfree.

***

Kuh Ledesma and Bobby Soul of the Platters at the Captain's Bar of the Mandarin Oriental in Makati, 9 p.m. Repeat on April 1. Call 721-6726 or 750-8888.

March 26
Sony BMG artists led by Sharon Cuneta, Cueshé, 6cyclemind, Pupil and Jimmy Bondoc take center stage on ABS-CBN's "ASAP '06." Christian Bautista, Sarah Geronimo, Rachel Ann Go sing the music of Eraserheads with select artist-interpreters from the platinum-selling "Ultraelectromagnetic Jam."

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"RIVETING! A GREAT, MOVING FILM." -Anderson Jones, AMC MOVIE CLUB

"GRIPPING." -Lou Lumenick, NEW YORK POST

"SENSATIONAL! 'NORTH COUNTRY' IS CRACKLING GOOD ENTERTAINMENT THAT ALSO STANDS OUT AS ONE OF THE YEAR'S MOST IMPORTANT MOVIES." -Pete Hammond, MAXIM MAGAZINE

"INSIGHTFUL AND THOUGHT-PROVOKING. AN INCREDIBLE FILM." -Brooke Anderson, CNN

"POWERFUL AND STIRRING." -Stephen Farber, MOVIELINE

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KITCHIE NADAL & BARBIE ALMALBIS ROCKS THE BIG DOME	MAY 19 FRI/8PM
THE CASCADES	JUN 16 FRI/8PM
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NORTH COUNTRY 1:20 / 4:00 / 6:40 / 9:20	V FOR VENDETTA 1:40 / 4:20 / 7:00 / 9:40	SHAGGY DOG 12:40 / 2:55 / 5:10	ULTRAVIOLET 2:40 / 4:50 / 7:00 / 9:10
SHE'S THE MAN 1:20 / 4:00 / 6:40 / 9:20	HOSTEL 1:20 / 3:25 / 5:30 / 7:35 / 9:40	DATE MOVIE 7:30 / 9:40 16 BLOCKS 1:55 / 4:30 / 7:05 / 9:40	ONLY P120 ADMISSION GLOBE PLATINUM P249/P299

AliMALL CINEMAS

1	V FOR VENDETTA 12:00 / 2:40 / 5:20 / 8:00	2	ULTRAVIOLET 12:05 R2 / 1:55 / 4:05 / 6:15 / 8:25	3	NANNY McPHEE 12:05 R2 / 1:55 / 4:05 / 6:15 / 8:25
4	HOSTEL 12:15 / 2:20 / 4:25 / 6:30 / 8:35	5	THE FEARLESS 12:00 / 2:05 / 4:10 / 6:15 / 8:20		DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

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G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 V FOR VENDETTA	2 ULTRAVIOLET	3 SHE'S THE MAN	4 GLORY ROAD
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 NANNY MCPHEE	2 SHE'S THE MAN	3 THX ULTRAVIOLET GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 HOSTEL	5 GLORY ROAD	6 NORTH COUNTRY	7 V FOR VENDETTA
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 ULTRAVIOLET	2 NORTH COUNTRY		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX ULTRAVIOLET GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX NORTH COUNTRY GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 GLORY ROAD GUARANTEED SEATS	4 V FOR VENDETTA GUARANTEED SEATS	5 NANNY MCPHEE GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX NORTH COUNTRY	2 NANNY MCPHEE		
	3 ULTRAVIOLET	4 SHE'S THE MAN	5 GLORY ROAD	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 CASANOVA	2 LAST HOLIDAY	3 FINAL DESTINATION 3	4 SYRIANA
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	1 ULTRAVIOLET	2 NORTH COUNTRY		
	3 GLORY ROAD	4 NANNY MCPHEE	5 SHE'S THE MAN	

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ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—ON A RECENT night that absolutely proved the song "It Never Rains In Southern California" wrong, we braved the drive to downtown LA for what we hoped would be a special treat: a visit to the set of "Dreamgirls."

This Broadway musical inspired by the story of the Supremes is being turned into a movie.

Beyonce, **Jamie Foxx** and **Eddie Murphy** star, but what excited us was the inclusion of **Jennifer Hudson**—**Jasmine Trias** and **Camille Velasco**'s fellow "American Idol" finalist in 2004—in the cast! **Jennifer** plays Effie and gets to sing the show-stopper, one of Broadway's grandest ballads of all time, "And I Am Telling You I'm Not Going."

Note that **Fantasia**, who won the AI title that year, auditioned for the Effie role. That director **Bill Condon** gave the career-making role to **Jennifer** instead must have been a sweet moment of vindication for the AI finalist.

We are happy for **Jennifer** because most of the 'Idol' finalists through all five years have not landed record or any other show biz deals.

In the "Dreamgirls" movie, if **Jennifer** proves that she has acting chops as well, she may be in the biz for good. By coincidence, the performer who shook the rafters when she belted "And I Am Telling" in the original 1981 Broadway production is also named **Jennifer**—last name: **Holliday**.

There are signs that **Jennifer** is in Hollywood for good. ShoWest, the annual film trade convention in Las Vegas, recently named the Illinois native as "Female Star of Tomorrow" for 2006. Previous recipients of the award, given to a promising actress, include **Cameron Diaz**, **Hilary Swank**, **Naomi Watts**, **Jennifer Garner**, **Minnie Driver** and **Claire Danes**.

FROM left, Anika Rose, Beyonce and Jennifer. Fantasia auditioned for the role that Jennifer got.

Like a premiere

But back to the set visit: It felt more like a premiere. DreamWorks and Paramount set up a huge party tent behind the restored movie palace, the Orpheum, where the night's scenes were being filmed.

As the rains continued, the tent leaked and the carpet became soggy but the joint was jumping with media folks waiting to proceed to the theater. A monitor showed a clip of **Holliday**, but with the the sound off.

On display were costumes by Oscar-nominated designer **Sharen Davis** ("Ray")—a suit for **Jamie Foxx**'s character (reportedly based on Motown founder **Berry Gordy**) and glittery gowns for The Dreamettes (**Beyonce**, **Jennifer** and **Anika Noni Rose**, a Tony Award winner for "Caroline, or Change"). Plasma screens featured scenes from the film highlighting the choreography of **Fatima Robinson**, who has created dance moves for the likes of Black Eyed Peas, Outkast, **Will Smith** and **Prince**.

Several dioramas showcased the set designs of **John Myhre**, who won the Oscar statuette for Best Production Design ("Memoirs of a Geisha") to accompany his first one for "Chicago."

Director **Bill Condon**, who wrote "Chicago" and penned and helmed "Kinsey," introduced his award-winning team. Then it was time to march to the Orpheum to watch the cast do "Steppin' to the Bad Side."

Beyonce, **Jennifer** and **Anika**—beautiful in red sequined gowns—and plenty of backup dancers performed the fully-choreographed number as the cameras rolled. And then it was over… too quickly. The press folks wanted more!

Jamie Foxx, Hollywood's No. 1 party boy, invited everyone back to the tent for more booze.

A wide-eyed **Jennifer** repeatedly exclaimed "Wow!" when asked about this career break. The former cruise ship entertainer said she has recorded "And I Am Telling" and that she can't wait to meet **Jennifer Holliday**.

I asked if she has been in touch with **Jasmine**. Jennifer replied, "I haven't spoken to her lately but I know that she did a show in my hometown."

'Dallas,' 'Kotter'

If negotiations push through, watch out for a movie version of the 1980s soap opera that had everyone glued to their seats: "Dallas."

The following are reportedly in talks to star in the big screen take of the hit TV series about a Texas oil family: **Jennifer Lopez** (Sue Ellen), **Luke Wilson** (Bobby), **John Travolta** (J.R.) and **Shirley MacLaine** (Miss Ellie).

If filmmaker **Robert Luketic** can raise the camp and fun quotient a notch higher than "Monster-in-Law" (where he directed J Lo), this 21st Century "Dallas" should be a hoot.

The TV series where **Travolta** first gained recognition, "Welcome Back, Kotter," is also being turned into a movie. **Ice Cube**, who is producing, will also star as the teacher (originally played by **Gabe Kaplan**). No word yet on who will play John's Vinnie Barbarino, the role helped launch his extraordinary movie career.

All of these remakes have driven an online columnist to react with, "Aarrgh. Do we really need to see J. Lo in Dallas or Ice Cube in Kotter?"

(E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.)

HENY SISON
CULINARY SCHOOL

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

April 1 (Saturday) 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. (classroom A) BASIC CAKES & ICINGS FOR BEGINNERS by: Heny Sison. Butter Cake with Butter Icing, Moist Chocolate Cake with Fudge Icing, Mocha Cake with No-Melt Butter Icing, Lemon Chiffon Cake with Boiled Icing & Sponge Cake with Whipped Cream Icing. P1,500

April 1 (Saturday) 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. (classroom A) BROWNIES & BARS by: Heny Sison * Chewy Moist Brownies, Carrot Cake Bars with Cream Cheese Icing, Lemon Cheesecake Bars, Brownies with Caramel Center & Butterscotch Bars. P1,500

April 3–6 (Monday- Thursday) 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom A) CAKE DECORATING COURSE III by: Heny Sison *Learn how to create a tiered wedding cake, embellishing borders, side borders, string work, filigree, fancy flowers, color flow on cookies, sugar molding, lattice for the side of the cake and tiered cake ideas. The grand finale to course 3 is an impressive wedding cake. Full participation. Prerequisite: Cake Decorating Course 1 & 2. This completes the Master Course in Cake Decorating. P8,000

April 3 (Monday) 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom A) NEW CLASS! PANADERO PANADERIA 1 by: Nestor Magrimbao, Baker, Fema Corporation * Pacencia, Galletas, Otap, Biscocho, Mamon Tostado, Rosquillos. Demonstration w/ student participation. P1,500

April 4(Tuesday) 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (classroom B) DIMSUM I by: Chef Katherine Sion, restaurateur (Ding Hao & Fat Kat restaurant), caterer and an expert in Chinese cuisine. * Congee, Siomai, Dumpling, Chicken Feet, Fried Shrimp Ball and Buchi. P1,700

April 4(Tuesday) 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. (classroom B) DIMSUM II by: Chef Katherine Sion * Steamed Pork Spareribs in Tausi Sauce, Chicken Siomai, Sharkslin Siomai, Two Colors Siomai, Wanton Mami and Egg Tart. P1,700

April 5(Wednesday) 9:00 a.m. –12:00 p.m. (classroom B) JAPANESE COOKING 1 (All Time Favorite Japanese Recipes) by: Chef Koichi Kondo, licensed cook from Ehime, Japan and food consultant to various Japanese restaurants * Miso Soup, Tempura, Nimono, Yakimono, California Maki, Chilled Soba, Noodles with Nori, Skewered Dumplings with Brown Sauce. P1,700

April 5(Wednesday) 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. (classroom B) SUSHI CLASS by: Chef Koichi Kondo * Temaki-Zushi (Do-It Yourself Sushi Rolls), Bara-Zushi (Scattered Sushi), Inari-Zushi (Sushi Pockets), Futo-Maki Zushi (Thick-Rolled Sushi), Teka-Maki (Hand-rolled Tuna Sushi), Kappa-Maki (Sea Cucumber Sushi). P1,700

April 6(Thursday) 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. (classroom B) NEW CLASS! DESIGNER PIZZA & CALZONE WORKSHOP by: Chef Jill Sandique, Food Consultant, Food Stylist, Blue Ribbon graduate at Peter Kump's New York Cooking School
* Basic Cheese, Pepperoni, Thai Chicken, Peking Duck, Hawaiian, Italian Sausage and Mushroom, Puttanesca, Bianca and Carbonara plus bonus recipes. P2,500

April 7 (Friday) 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (classroom A) PARADE OF PIES, TARTS & CHEESECAKES * French Apple Pie with Streusel Topping and Creme Anglaise Sauce, Turtle Pie, Banana Cream Pie with Whipped Cream and Caramel Topping, Mango Tart, Peach Walnut Pie, Blueberry Cheesecake and White Chocolate Cheesecake. P1,700

April 8(Saturday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom A) SETTING UP YOUR BUSINESS FOR SUCCESS by: Gianella Rodriguez, General Manager of Foodparks by Pantree. Graduate of Cornell University & Culinary Institute by America. Key information on what you need to open your restaurant business. Course Outline: (1)Developing Your Concept (2)Conducting Market Research (3)Mapping Out a Critical Path (4)Menu Planning (5)Operations Management – Staffing, Inventory Management and Cost Control & (6)Basic Marketing Plan. P2,000

April 10(Monday) 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (classroom A) CHINESE VEGETARIAN MEAL I by: Chef Katherine Sion * Braised Chinese Mushroom, Fried Beancurd, Budhist Vegetables, Sate Veggie Meat w/ Broccoli, Veggie Meat Menudo, and Beansprout w/ Kutchay Flower. P1,700

April 10(Monday)1:00 – 5:00 p.m (classroom A)CHINESE VEGETARIAN MEAL II by: Chef Katherine Sion * Sweet & Sour Veggie Meat, Steamed Beancurd Roll, Crispy Mochi w/ Vegetable Filling, Braised Beancurd w/ Veggie Meat, Sotanghon w/ Vegetable, and Snowfungus w/ Fruit Cocktail. P1,700

April 10(Monday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom B) NEW CLASS! LENT AND EASTER MEDITERRANEAN HOME COOKING MODULE by: Chef Sam DE Leoz, Food Consultant, Stylist, Photographer, Caterer, Food demonstrator and Culinary Competition Events Consultant specializing in Basic & Classical Cookery: International & Asian Cuisine. Learn to prepare easy step by step methods of basic Mediterranean dishes for the Lenten Season.
Recipes: Baguette w/ Medley Spread, Pate, Tapenade, Prawn Butter, Saffron Aioli, Moroccan Date, Orange and Carrot Salad, Seafood Soup w/ Rouille, Seafood Risotto, Fish and Clams w/ Salsa Verde, Circassian Chicken, Iced Oranges. P1,800

April 11(Tuesday) 10:00 a.m. –4:00 p.m. (classroom A) BASIC FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS by: Glenn Remorca, floral designer* Learn the theories, styles, trends, techniques, sourcing, flower care and maintenance, basic forms, arrangements and flowers for weddings.
Lecture, demonstration and hands-on production. Bring a pair of scissors. P2,500

April 11(Tuesday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom B) NEW CLASS! FIESTA BONANZA by: Chef Sam de Leoz Take out those pots and pans and get ready to prepare Fiesta dishes with a twist and impress your guests with your Fiesta Bonanza
Recipes: Pansit Malabon, Prawn Thermidor w/ Sauce Nantua, Relyenong Bangus w/ Sauce Andalouse, Pastel de Lengua, Callos Madrilena, Aligo ng Talangka Paella w/ Crispy Crablets. P1,700

April 17(Monday) 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (classroom A) POPULAR CHINESE DISHES FOR CATERING 3 by: Chef Katherine Sion * West Lake Soup, Boneless Barbecue Chicken Chinese style, Sliced Beef w/ Broccoli in Oyster Sauce, Fried Shrimp w/ Spicy Sauce, Crispy Bihon w/ Assorted Meats, Fried Rice w/ Salted Fish, Fried Wanton w/ Apple Filling. P1,700

April 17(Monday) 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. (classroom A) NEW CLASS! DIMSUM 3 WORKSHOP P2,000 by: Chef Katherine Sion
* Cantonese Machang, Chinese Gyoza, Beef Siomai, Fried Special Lumpia, Labanos Cake, and Snow White Mochi.

April 17(Monday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom B) NEW CLASS! LAKBAY BAON P1,700by: Chef Sam de Leoz
Save on your food expenses costs during your out of town vacation trips this summer and prepare your Baon. Determine the freshest ingredients available in your place of destination and learn to prepare like a House-Chef simple on-the-spot dishes.
Recipes: Smoke Bangus Spread, Bisteak Tagalog w/ Lemon Soy Glaze, Adobo Rice w/ Togue, Pinatisan Manok, On-the-Spot Basic Fish Marinade & Sauce for grilling or frying, On-the-Spot Basic Meat Marinade & Sauce for grilling or frying, On-the-Spot Salad Greens w/ Assorted Basic Vinaigrettes and Dressings.

April 18-20(Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday)1st & 3rd day 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. 2nd day 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. (classroom A)CHILDREN'S BAKING WORKSHOP by: Chef Jill Sandique. In this 3 day baking workshop, kids will surely have fun while making the following recipes. Tuition fee includes an apron and basic baking kit. * Chocolate Crackles, Fudgy Brownies, Lemon Pie, Snickerdoodles, Oatmeal Raisin Cookies, Chocolate Chip Cookies, Honey Crunchies, Gingersnaps, Orange Squares, Chocolate Chunks, Easy Oreo Cheesecake and Cathedral Windows. P4,000

April 18(Tuesday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom B) JAPANESE RICE TOPPING by: Chef Koichi Kondo. Recipes: Oyako-don (Chicken & Egg on Rice), Gyudon (Beef Bowl), Tendon (Tempura Bowl), Katsu-don (Pork Cutlet Bowl), Soboro-don (Minced Chicken & Egg Bowl), Ton Teriyaki-don (Chicken Teriyaki). P1,700

April 19(Wednesday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom B) COFFEE CLASS by: Chef Aileen Anastacio Sandoval, owner of Goodies N' Sweet Bakeshop & C'est Si Bon, Dean's list graduate of Culinary at the California Culinary Academy
* If you are planning to open a coffee shop this course is for you. Learn the four fundamentals of coffee brewing, home espresso, guide to steaming & foaming. Make fun toppings & garnishes & master the art of coffee making. Recipes: Caffè Latte, Caffè Mocha, Caffè Americano, Cappuccino, Espresso Macchiato & Espresso Con Panna, Almond Coffee Freeze, Icy Rum Coffee Cream, Toffee Coffee, Mudslide Malt, Mocha Rumba, Rocky Road and more! P3,000

April 21(Friday) 10:00 a.m. –3:00 p.m. (classroom A) BAKED PASTA P1,700 by: Chef Jill Sandique * Classic Lasagne, Manicotti, Chicken Mushroom and Ham Casserole, Baked Macaroni, Penne with Seafood and Asparagus.

April 21(Friday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom B)NEW CLASS! EVERYDAY FOOD FOR HOUSEHOLD HELPER I by: Chef Carol Acosta, food consultant to multinational food companies & restaurants. Recipes: Classic Adobo w/ Halapeña & Green Pepper, Fresh Lumpia w/ Cheese & Brown Peanut Sauce, Beef Estofado w/ Fried Banana, Salpicao w/ Rice, Waldorp's Salad, Beef w/ Pineapple. Demonstration w/ student participation. P2,500

April 22 (Saturday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom A) NEW CLASS! RESTAURANT KITCHEN DESIGN by: Raeanna Cranbourne, graduated in 1998 from the Hotel School at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York with a BS degree in Hotel Management, concentrating in Hospitality Design. Topic Covered: (1)Sizing – Proportion of kitchen to dining area (2)Equipment- Basic requirements for specific types of restaurants (3)Layout – Flow of goods from back door to customer (4)Construction material – for floors, walls, ceilings (5)Design Tips – how to build on a budget, common mistakes to avoid (6)Sizing Guide – what size of equipment to use (7)Storage and office space (8)Costing – construction costs and equipment costs (9)Supplier guide–list of contact information for local suppliers. P2,000

April 22(Saturday) 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (classroom B) HEALTHY GOURMET - SOUTH BEACH DIET PHASE 1 by: Jacqueline H. Alleje, owner of Rizal Dairy Farm, Swiss-Pinoy restaurateur (Vieux Chalet Swiss restaurant), organic caterer and food consultant (Petra's naturally green, global, gourmet) * This class is suitable for all people who want to be able to cook healthy dishes, lose weight considerably and people with health concerns such as diabetes, high blood pressure and other dietary restrictions. The class will guide you through the principles of healthy nutrition, South Beach Diet phase 1 "Swiss Pinoy Style", which uses locally available ingredients. Complete menu plan and recipes for 14 days of Phase 1. P1,500 plus P700 recipe booklet for Phase 1

April 22(Saturday) 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. (classroom B) HEALTHY GOURMET – SOUTH BEACH DIET COMBO CLASS PHASE 2 and 3 by: Jacqueline H. Alleje * This class is suitable for all people who want to learn how to cook healthy dishes, deepen their knowledge of nutrition and weight control, as well as people with health concerns, such ad diabetes, high blood pressure, and other dietary restrictions. This class teaches wholesome recipes which reintroduce carbohydrates with complete recipe booklets for phase 2 and 3 of the South Beach Diet. P1,500 plus P700 per recipe booklet

April 27 (Thursday) 10:00 a.m – 4:00 p.m. (classroom A) KOREAN COOKING I: A WORKSHOP by: Chef Cecile Park, owner of Silla Korean Restaurant & food consultant to various Korean restaurants in Metro Manila * Beef Bulgogi (Tenderloin & ordinary), Chicken Bulgogi, Pork Bulgogi, Chap Chae, Mi Yuk Guk (Soups: Seaweeds, Beef or Tahong), Bibimbap & Kalbi Jim. P2,500

April 27 (Thursday) 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (classroom B)NEW CLASS! SUMMER BAKE CAMP CLASSIC AMERICAN BAKED DESSERTS by: Chef Vicki Villanueva, from Stars & Bizu, let Chef Vicki share with you her wealth of knowledge and experience of patisseries and restaurant concepts, skills, techniques & operations. Specially designed for passionate young bakers and baking enthusiasts. Chef Vicki will teach and guide them to create gorgeous classic American baked desserts for family & friends. Course includes: Apple Pie, Blueberry Cheesecake, Choco Chips Cookies, Raisin-Oatmeal Cookies, Fudge Brownies and Cinnamon Roll. Includes Apron, Toque, Ingredients and share of baked goodies. P2,300

April 28 (Friday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom A) NEW CLASS! EVERYDAY FOOD FOR HOUSEHOLD HELPER II : Chef Carol Acosta* Chicken a la Kiev, Fish Fillet w/ Cream Sauce, Traditional Pinakbet w/ Bagnet, Chicken Inasal, Pastel de Lengua, Kare-Kare. Demonstration w/ student participation. P2,500 by

April 28 (Friday) 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (classroom B) NEW CLASS! SUMMER BAKE CAMP II COOKIE WORKSHOP FOR KIDS by: Chef Vicki Villanueva. Ages 6-12 years old. In this hands-on workshop, kids will learn how to make drop, bar, hand-molded, cut-out and specialty cookies and the popular cookie pops. Learn several Choco chips Cookies, Lemon Bars, Triple Layered Brownies Square, Choco Crinkles and Black & White Cookies. Bring out the artist in you. Design your own cookie pops Includes Apron, Toque, Ingredients and share of bake products P2,300

April 28 (Friday) 1:30 – 5:30 p.m. (classroom B) NEW CLASS! SUMMER BAKE CAMP III CUPCAKE SUMMER WORKSHOP by: Chef Vicki Villanueva. This new class is designed for young bakers. Learn to bake delicious cupcakes for birthdays and holiday celebration. Chef Vicki will show you the techniques of customizing your cupcakes. Recipes: Devils Food, Black & White Ganache, Cupcake, Butter Carrot Cupcakes, Buttercream, White Choco, Mocha Vanilla, Caramel, Chocolate Ganache & Boiled Icing. Take home your own beautiful cupcakes. Includes Apron, Toque, Ingredients & share of baked goodies. P2,300

April 29 (Saturday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom A) SPECIAL TABLE AND HOME DECOR FLOWER ARRANGEMENT by: Glenn Remorca Table Centerpieces w/ actual demonstration and table setting presentation. Lecture, demonstration and hands-on production. Bring a pair of scissors. P3,000

April 29 (Saturday) 9:30 a.m. –2:30 p.m. (classroom B) NEW CLASS! KIDS IN THE KITCHEN WITH MOM (A Tribute to Mothers on Mother's Day) by: Chef Vicki Villanueva Ages 8 to 20, No fee for Mother. Celebrate Mother's Day with mother and child taking culinary course together. Mother and child will have fun creating spectacular goodies. Learn to make homemade, Fresh Pasta – Lasagne, Carbonara & Pesto. Four Cheese Pizza & Marghorita Pizza, Panini, Ciabatta, Foccacia and Mochamoo. P2,300

We are now accepting enrollees for the June batch of ESSENTIAL COOKING SERIES (June 29 – September 7, 2006 Classes are held every Thursdays & Fridays). ESSENTIAL BAKING AND PASTRY SERIES (June 3 – December 2, 2006. Classes are held every Saturdays).

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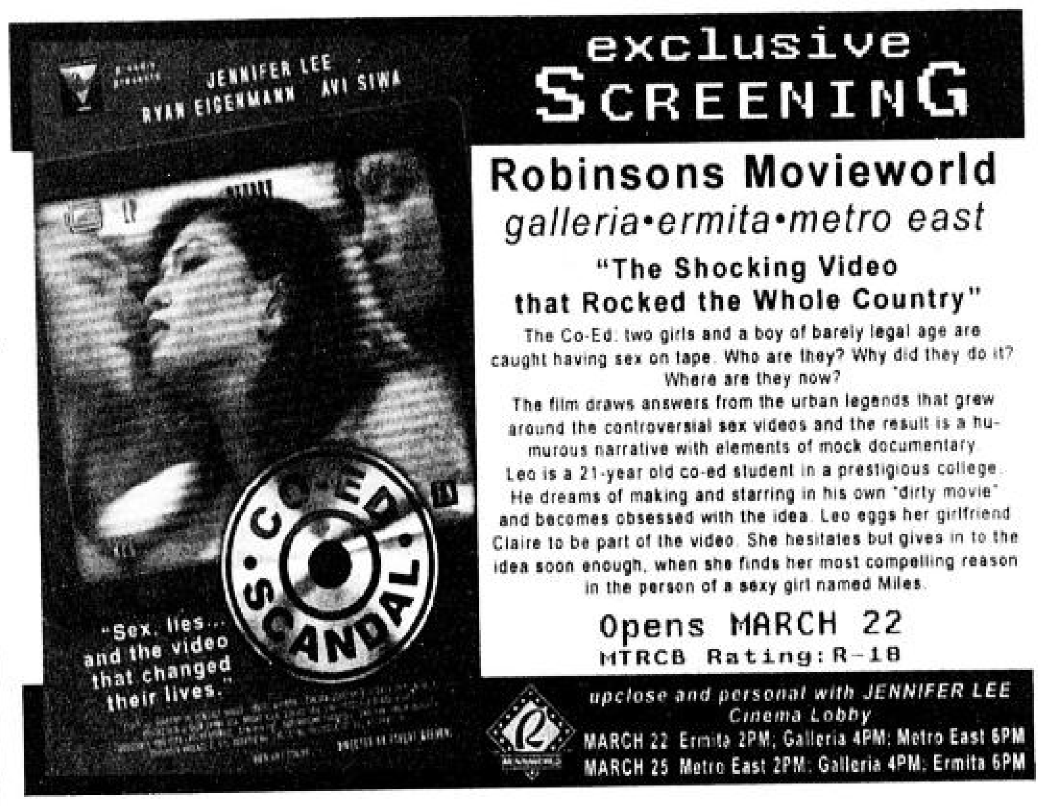

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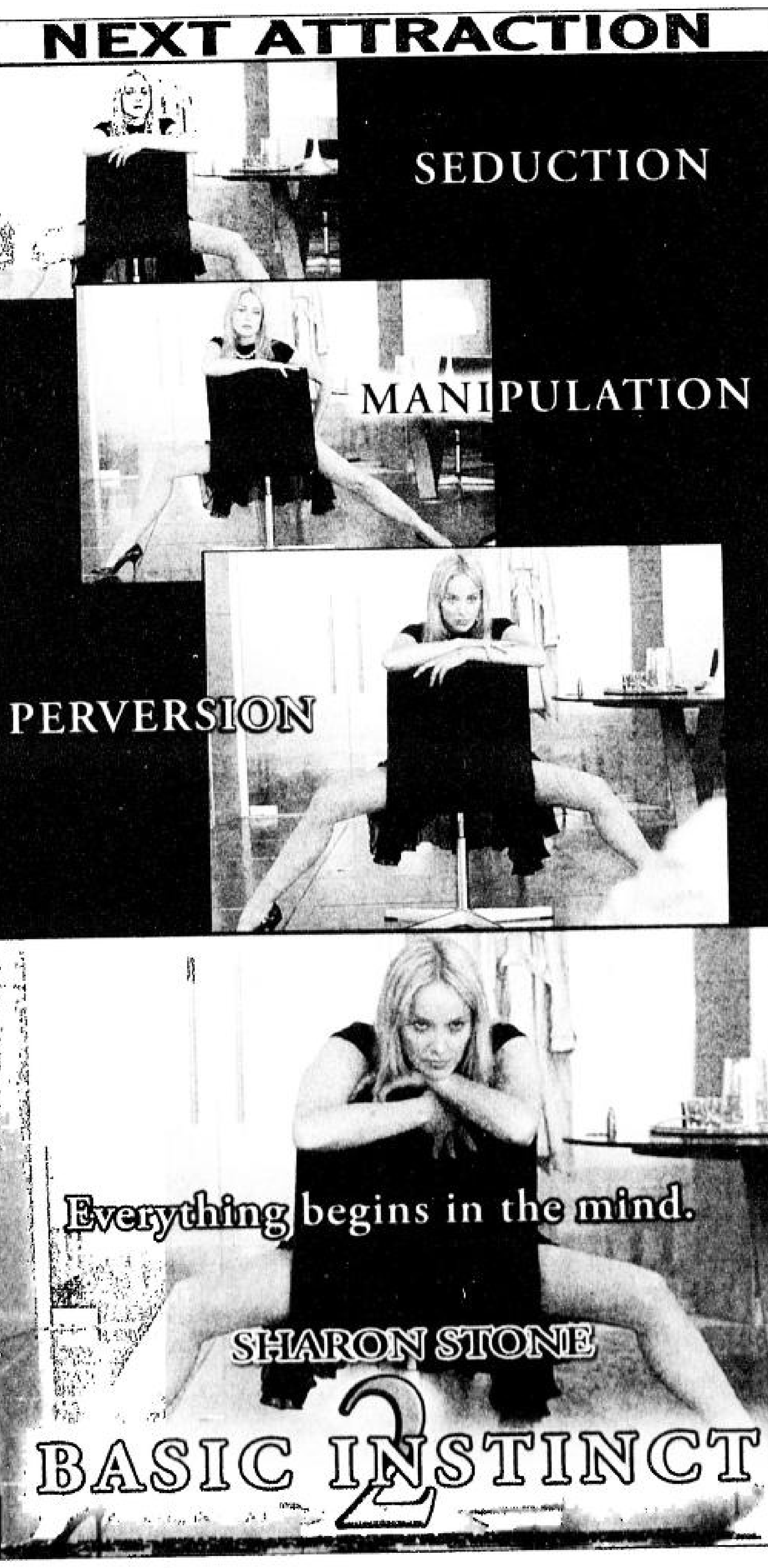

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MAGBAYAD NG TAMANG BUWIS
bago ang April 17 deadline.
24 DAYS TO GO
Ang Ating Kontribusyon Sa Solusyon

Gov't hikes sin tax collection target by 18%

BIR to make up for its failure last year to deliver expected revenue

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT HAS DIRECTED THE BUREAU OF Internal Revenue to increase its collection of "sin taxes" by 18 percent this year.

The government wants the BIR to make up for its failure last year to deliver the revenue expected from the enactment of the law that raised excise tax rates slapped on cigarettes and alcohol products.

The BIR this year is given a tax collection target of P48.042 billion from P40.695 billion last year.

The revenue agency was supposed to have collected about P5 billion more in sin taxes, based on its projected incremental revenues from the Sin Tax law.

The government said the sin tax law was supposed to generate P7.5 billion in additional taxes last year. But the BIR was able to collect only about P2 billion.

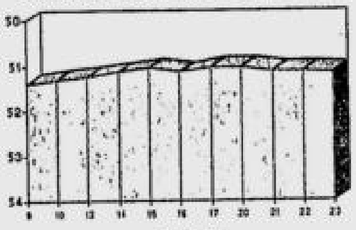
The law was enacted in December 2004 and took effect in January last year.

Revenue officials claimed that the BIR's failure last year to meet the projected P7.5 billion in incremental rev-

GOV'T/ B3

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



MARCH

₱51.16 = $1

As of 5 p.m., March 23, 2006

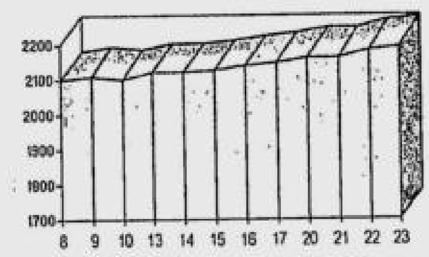
¥116.90 = $1

As of 5 p.m., March 23, 2006

GOLD: $549.30-549.80

per ounce Hong Kong, March 23, 2006

STOCK MARKET



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares close 0.37% higher

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY CLOSED 0.37 percent higher, extending gains as fund managers polished their portfolios ahead of the end of the first quarter of the year, dealers said.

Recent positive economic data and earnings

SHARES/ B2

WHAT'S INSIDE

Winston ups Equitable ante /B3

DBP increasing funds for wholesale lending /B7

BOP surplus of ₱1.6B seen by yearend

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS EXpects its balance of payments to post a surplus of about $1.6 billion by year's end, lower than last year's $2.4 billion.

Although the country's actual BOP surplus in the first two months of this year had already reached $2.03 billion, BSP has "conservatively" factored in outflows from debt payments for the rest of the year, as well as lower growth in inflows of overseas Filipino workers' remittances and foreign portfolio investments.

But even as local exporters are complaining that the sharply rising peso was hurting their business, the BSP maintained its more optimistic outlook on export, expecting a growth rate of 8 percent this year against last year's 4 percent.

But BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo said the latest projections already assumed a stronger peso against the US dollar. The government's latest foreign exchange assumption is a range of 51 to 53 for the year.

"There are still many risks in the global economy, such as in exports," Guinigundo said. "We are price takers in the world market ... we must be more realistic about it."

He added that the BSP was looking at a lower OFW remittances growth rate of 10 percent from last year's growth of 25 percent due to certain risks, such as the strict implementation of anti-money laundering measures and immigration policies around the world.

"We expect strong OFW remittance to continue, but not in the same magnitude as [last year's] 25 percent," Guinigundo said.

BSP officials added, however, that all these projections on the BOP and its components could still change, depending on external developments this year.

In the case of inflows of hot money or foreign portfolio investments in stocks and peso-denominated government securities, Guinigundo said that there has been slower inflows this year compared to those recorded last year.

She added that the government's front-loading of foreign borrowings expanded the

BOP SURPLUS/ B7

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Empire East to buy back shares

Real estate developer sets aside ₱2 billion for 2-yr program

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

REAL ESTATE DEVELOPER EMPIRE EAST Land Holdings, Inc. will buy back up to P1 billion worth of its own shares over the next two years, the company said in a disclosure yesterday.

Empire East said the buyback program was part of its strategy to "create and enhance shareholder value" as current market prices of Empire East's shares "do not reflect their true value."

Empire East shares yesterday closed at 57 centavos each.

Empire East will carry out the buy-back program over the next two years.

Empire East is a pioneer in self-contained township projects in Metro Manila and in the suburbs, catering to the middle-income market.

These include flagship project Laguna BelAir in Sta. Rosa, Laguna; Cambridge Village in the Pasig-Cainta area; and California Garden Square in Mandaluyong City.

Meanwhile, trading of the shares of Empire East's parent firm Megaworld Corp. will be suspended from April 7 to 21 to pave the way for its international stock offer.

EMPIRE/B5

Splash sees sales growth

SPLASH CORP., THE flagship beauty and skin care products arm of Splash Holdings, expects to grow its revenues to between P4 billion and P4.6 billion this year with its introduction of new products.

Splash was able to generate P3.7 billion in revenues last year owing to five new brands under its cosmetics and toiletries line, Noel Manucom, associate vice president for Splash said in a press briefing yesterday.

Manucom, however, declined to disclose its new product offerings this year.

Net income, on the other hand, for the year was placed at P450 million from P200 million last year.

Splash is considered a market leader in the sale of lotions, exfoliants, whitening products and lotions.

To bankroll further expansion, Splash plans to raise P3 billion from a proposed public offering of new or previously-owned shares by the first quarter next year.

It has tapped Ernst and Young as financial adviser.

Shares …

From page B1

reports also continued to bolster the market, which has risen over six of the past seven sessions, the dealers added.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index rose 8.08 points to 2,192.78 for the best finish since Aug. 30, 1999 when it ended at 2,201.24.

Earlier, the index moved between 2,184.13 and 2,198.01.

The all-shares index was down 1.92 points at 1,054.13.

Volume stood at 1.01 billion shares worth P1.3 billion ($42.87 million). Gainers outnumbered losers 75 to 21, while 48 stocks were unchanged.

The peso traded at 51.155 to the US dollar as of mid-day.

Ayala Corp., the country's largest conglomerate, was the benchmark index's main mover, ending up P7.50 at P360.

Its units, Bank of the Philippine Islands and Ayala Land Inc., however succumbed to profit-taking, with top-traded BPI falling 50 centavos to P62.50, while Ayala Land was down 25 centavos at P10.75.

San Miguel Corp. A shares, limited to local investors, ended unchanged at P60.50, but San Miguel B-shares open to both local and foreign investors, gained 50 centavos to P81.50. *AFP*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of March 23, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	35.5	36	35.5	36	278,200
Bank of the Phil. Islands	63	63.5	62.5	62.5	2,915,400
Chinatrust Comm. Bank	20	20	20	20	1,000
Citystate Savings Bank	19	19	19	19	300
Export and Ind. Bank Inc	0.39	0.41	0.38	0.41	15,960,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	77.5	79.5	76	79.5	758,400
International Exch. Bank	28	28.5	28	28	726,800
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	38	38.5	37.5	38.5	504,700
Philippine National Bank	33	33.5	33	33.5	50,600
Phil. Savings Bank	35	35	35	35	30,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13	13.25	13	13.25	68,000
Security Bank Corp.	39	41	39	41	437,900
Union Bank of the Phil.	39.5	40	36.5	37	18,200
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Bankard Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	50,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	24	24.5	24	24.5	1,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	3210	3210	3210	3210	250
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	150	150	150	150	1,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2130	2135	2130	2135	520
Ivantage Corp.	0.83	0.84	0.83	0.84	930,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	41.5	42.5	41.5	42	1,893,900
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	42.5	45.5	42.5	45	2,014,700
Manila Electric Co. A	13	13.5	13	13.5	8,100
Manila Electric Co. B	20.25	20.5	20.25	20.5	188,600
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.4	949,000
Petron Corp.	4.55	4.65	4.55	4.6	5,489,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	150,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	13,000
Cadp Group Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	3,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	19	19.25	19	19.25	60,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	38	38.5	38	38	496,000
Pancake House Inc.	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	5,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	2.16	2.42	2.16	2.38	3,317,000
San Miguel Corp. A	60	60.5	60	60.5	291,500
San Miguel Corp. B	81.5	81.5	81	81.5	349,700
Universal Robina Corp.	18	18.25	18	18.25	173,200
Vitarich Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	580,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.3	0.31	0.29	0.31	9,740,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.46	1.52	1.46	1.48	12,644,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.2	4.25	4.15	4.2	1,555,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	2,000,000
Panasonic Mfg Phil Corp.	7.4	7.5	7.4	7.5	1,246,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.57	0.71	0.57	0.65	9,140,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.007	0.0075	0.007	0.0075	7,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	2,000,000
Ayala Corp.	352.5	360	352.5	360	168,140
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	200,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5	5.2	5	5.2	2,402,000
Alliance Global Group Inc	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	2,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	18,400,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.44	2.44	2.44	2.44	305,000
APC Group, Inc.	0.21	0.235	0.21	0.22	4,600,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	5,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.85	0.88	0.85	0.88	480,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	8.6	8.7	8.6	8.6	18,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.98	1.04	0.98	1.02	13,720,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	1,040,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	2.9	3.15	2.9	3	3,074,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.22	1.24	823,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc	5.6	5.9	5.6	5.9	1,591,000
Pacifica	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	12,000,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	2,080,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc	0.92	0.92	0.89	0.89	100,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.53	0.54	0.53	0.54	380,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.14	0.145	0.14	0.14	14,390,000
SM Investments Corp.	227	233	226	230	504,940
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.5	0.53	0.5	0.53	470,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.12	0.125	0.12	0.125	2,450,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	11	11	10.75	10.75	3,862,500
Belle Corp.	1.06	1.1	1.06	1.1	22,293,000
A Brown Co. Inc.	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	100,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.25	0.28	0.25	0.26	10,770,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	1.92	1.96	1.9	1.9	3,296,000
C&P Homes Inc.	1.64	1.7	1.64	1.68	56,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	1.06	1.12	1.06	1.12	100,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	2,900,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.53	0.58	0.52	0.57	58,130,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.74	0.78	0.74	0.77	190,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.029	0.031	0.029	0.031	7,300,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	1,000,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.28	1.38	1.28	1.38	26,382,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	200,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	3.05	3.5	3.05	3.4	2,148,000
Interport Res.	0.0044	0.0048	0.0044	0.0048	30,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0046	0.0048	0.0046	0.0048	53,000,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.22	0.225	0.22	0.225	4,780,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.52	0.56	0.52	0.55	3,160,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	500,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.48	1.48	1.46	1.48	5,589,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.33	0.34	0.33	0.34	2,440,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.31	0.33	0.31	0.32	13,420,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.165	0.17	0.165	0.17	20,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	7.6	7.8	7.6	7.8	1,250,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.33	0.33	0.31	0.31	12,210,000
SM Development Corp.	1.44	1.5	1.44	1.5	589,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8	8	7.8	7.9	5,025,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.15	0.155	0.145	0.15	23,310,000
SERVICE					
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	4,100
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	24,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	0.92	0.98	0.92	0.97	11,050,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	900	900	890	890	38,370
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3	3	2.9	2.95	5,601,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1875	1890	1865	1870	27,890
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.195	0.2	3,310,000
Imperial Res.	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	7,000,000
Ism Communications Corp.	0.05	0.0525	0.05	0.0525	1,100,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.12	1.12	70,000
Philweb Corp.	0.022	0.023	0.022	0.023	15,900,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.96	1.96	1.92	1.92	210,000
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.66	1.66	1,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	11.25	11.25	10.75	11	787,800
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97	50,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	20,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	840,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.86	1.86	1.84	1.86	2,404,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	250,000
EDUCATION					
Far Eastern University	650	650	650	650	500
Ipeople Inc	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	100,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.56	1.58	32,000
Paxys Inc.	8.6	9.1	8.6	8.9	2,144,000
Philcomsat Holdings Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	40,000
MINING & OIL					
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	1.14	1.16	1.12	1.14	925,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc B	1.3	1.36	1.3	1.32	1,528,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	39,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6.9	7	6.8	6.9	852,000
Benguet Corp. A	7	7	6.9	6.9	7,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.22	0.22	0.215	0.215	3,000,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.27	40,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	28,500,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.026	0.026	0.025	0.026	78,600,000
Omico Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.005	0.005	13,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	2.26	2.32	2.24	2.26	13,764,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	2.32	2.38	2.28	2.3	11,244,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	24.75	25	24.75	25	202,200
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	650,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	490,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated, Inc.	0.25	0.27	0.25	0.26	8,500,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	265,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	34,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.5	0.56	0.5	0.56	1,360,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.52	0.56	0.52	0.56	610,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3.85	3.85	3.8	3.8	70,000
PREFERRED					
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	12.75	12.75	12.5	12.75	156,900

CURRENCIES

March 23, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.828020	1.000000	51.1630
Japan	Yen	0.007081	0.008552	0.4375
United Kingdom	Pound	1.447048	1.747600	89.4125
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.106701	0.128863	6.5930
Switzerland	Franc	0.634304	0.766049	39.1934
Canada	Dollar	0.710076	0.857559	43.8753
Singapore	Dollar	0.512294	0.618697	31.6544
Australia	Dollar	0.596256	0.720098	36.8424
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.197156	2.653505	135.7613
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.220782	0.266638	13.6420
Brunei	Dollar	0.510714	0.616789	31.5568
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000091	0.000110	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.021264	0.025681	1.3139
UAE	Dirham	0.225465	0.272294	13.9314
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.207700	61.7896
Argentina	Peso	0.269494	0.325468	16.6519
Brazil	Real	0.383343	0.462963	23.6866
Denmark	Kroner	0.134001	0.161833	8.2799
India	Rupee	0.018666	0.022543	1.1534
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.224396	0.271003	13.8653
Mexico	New Peso	0.076154	0.091971	4.7055
New Zealand	Dollar	0.520080	0.628101	32.1355
Norway	Kroner	0.125826	0.151960	7.7747
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013801	0.016667	0.8527
South Africa	Rand	0.130805	0.157973	8.0824
Korea	Won	0.000851	0.001028	0.0526
Sweden	Kroner	0.106969	0.129186	6.6095
Syria	Pound	0.015951	0.019264	0.9856
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025469	0.030759	1.5737
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000386	0.000466	0.0238

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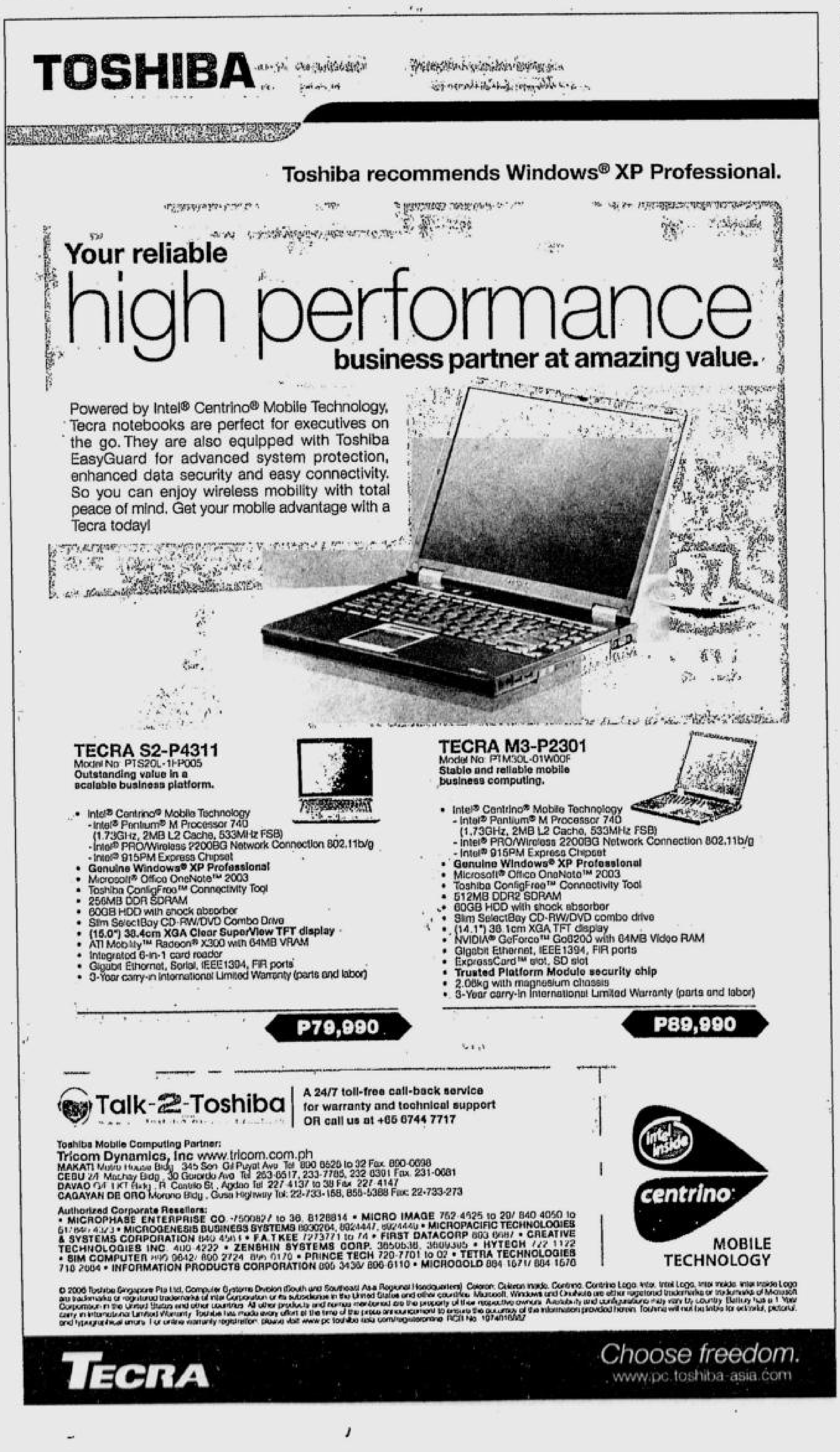
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COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

Winston ups Equitable ante

STUNG BY ACCUSATIONS that he was merely hyping the market, an annoyed Winston Garcia said yesterday that he had sent out a buy order for up to 10 million shares of Equitable PCIBank to 15 accredited GSIS brokers.

At the same time, the GSIS president said that he had informed Nestor Tan, president of Banco de Oro, that the Government Service Insurance System was also willing to buy out the BDO/SM Group's stake in Equitable PCIBank, . "cash, no questions asked," at yesterday's closing price of P79.50.

(**Disclosure:** Cocktales does not, and has never owned, whether directly or indirectly, any Equitable PCIBank share.)

Trading in Equitable PCIBank was considerably higher yesterday, with 758,400 shares changing hands, compared to Wednesday's 276,600, Tuesday's 138,800 and Monday's 206,900, when the shares closed at P75 apiece.

The 10-million-share buy order that Garcia said he had issued represents about 1.375 percent of the bank's 727,003,345 total outstanding shares—hardly enough to dent the existing power structure in Equitable PCIBank.

"They sniff down that I have a 'drunken' buyer," a piqued Garcia said. "After the smoke of this battle clears, let's see who had been drunk and who had been sleeping on the job."

Economists at the gate

THE UP School of Economics was in full force at the Bangko Sentral Wednesday, but instead of protesting the strong peso, the dismal scientists even expressed irrational exuberance over an institution they had been fulminating against not too long ago.

"There is no finer investment for any community than putting milk into the mouth of babies," said UPSE Dean Raul Fabella in his studied British accent, quoting Churchill, as he accepted a P3-million check from Gov. Amando Tetangco Jr.

The modest outlay established the BSP Professorial Sterling Chair in Monetary and Banking Economics in the Diliman school, alma mater to the three current deputy governors—Nestor Espenilla, Diwa Guinigundo and Armando Suratos.

According to the grapevine, Fabella proposed the professorial endowment, something he acknowledged was not possible in the past due to what he said was "the suspicion of motives."

The past he referred to was 11 years ago, when Fabella and colleagues, funded by grants from the US Agency for International Development, waged an advocacy campaign against the Bangko Sentral to press for peso devaluation amid record dollar inflows.

Disclosure: Cocktales at that time was receiving flak from the Bangko Sentral, battling with admitted gusto against his more learned adversaries.

This time, the Diliman guests were more circumspect. Fabella avoided reporters who were itching to get his views on the current strong peso, also amid record dollar inflows.

Likewise, UP vice president Amelia Guevarra, UPSE department chair Ma. Socorro Gochoco-Bautista, and three former economic planning secretaries currently on the UP faculty—Solita Monsod, Gerardo Sicat and Dante Canlas—took the same tack, preferring to dissect the grilled fillet of cream dory amid live piano music rather than dwell on current monetary policies.

Clearly, it was not the time to use another Churchillian quote: "I have never developed indigestion from eating my words."

Money-go-round

- THE Far Eastern University next month will confer an honorary doctorate for Business Management on retired Bangko Sentral Gov. Rafael Buenaventura.
- FORMER Finance Secretary Roberto de Ocampo denies attending the March 7 Phinma penthouse meeting between pro-GMA alumni and anti-GMA La Salle president Bro. Armin Luistro, as well as subsequently hosting a ballroom dancing session for the group.

A La Salle informant, however, claims that the ballroom dancing, plus karaoke, session was indeed held in De Ocampo's Greenhills house two days later.

Heard through the grapevine

THE Ayalas are finalizing details for their Manila Water to take over the operations of the Fort water and sewerage company, which, it is hoped, would bring water rates within The Fort down to Makati-Taguig levels.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

Gov't hikes …

From page B1

enues from the Sin Tax law was due to the frontloading of production done by cigarette and alcohol manufacturers.

Knowing that sin taxes would increase starting January last year, some cigarette and alcohol makers advanced production in the latter months of 2004 to ávoid paying higher taxes, BIR officials had said.

Excise tax is slapped on products once they are released from factories.

The BIR said it had implemented administrative measures to improve the collection of sin taxes and plug possible tax leaks.

One such measure calls for the installation of a computer system in factories of alcoholic beverages and cigarettes. The system will detect the volume of products taken out of the factories.

The BIR has already installed a computerized detection system in the factory of cigarette maker Fortune Tobacco, owned by tycoon Lucio Tan.

The Sin Tax law is one of the revenue-raising measures the Arroyo administration is pushing in an effort to reduce the government's huge budget deficit, which last year stood at P146.5 billion.

The government's economic team hopes to wipe out the deficit by 2008.

PRULINK Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	PRU LIFE U.K. Current Week Mar. 21, 2006	 Last Week Mar. 14, 2006
Bond Fund - Peso	1.42399	1.40476
Managed Fund - Peso	1.54596	1.52105
Growth Fund - Peso	1.17891	1.15094
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.2471	1.2389

* Note: These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission

Investment Funds of Wealth Builder and Wealth Secure	UNIT PRICES (in Php) March 20, 2006	 March 13, 2006
Fixed Income Fund	1.143952	1.134202
Balanced Fund	1.131318	1.118447
Equity Fund	1.103936	1.083727

These investment funds are specific to variable life insurance contracts and are not considered mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.
The weekly unit prices are also available at www.insularlife.com.ph.

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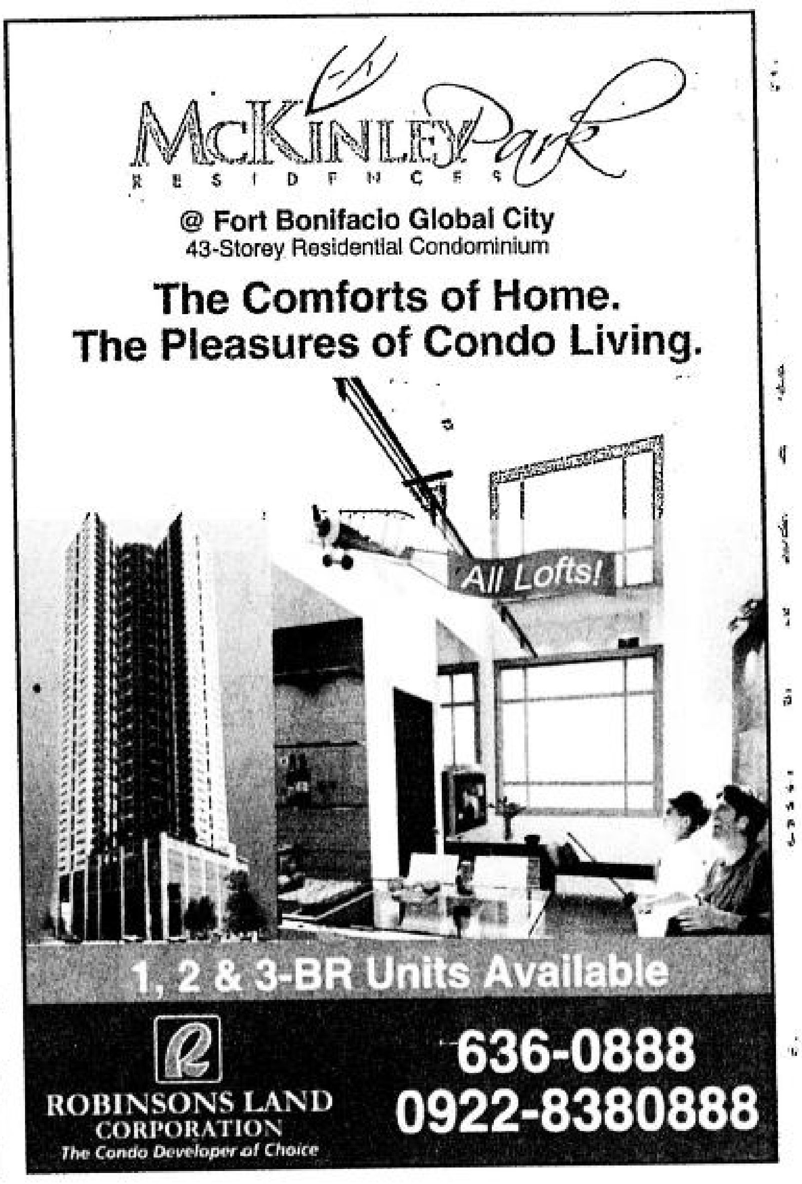
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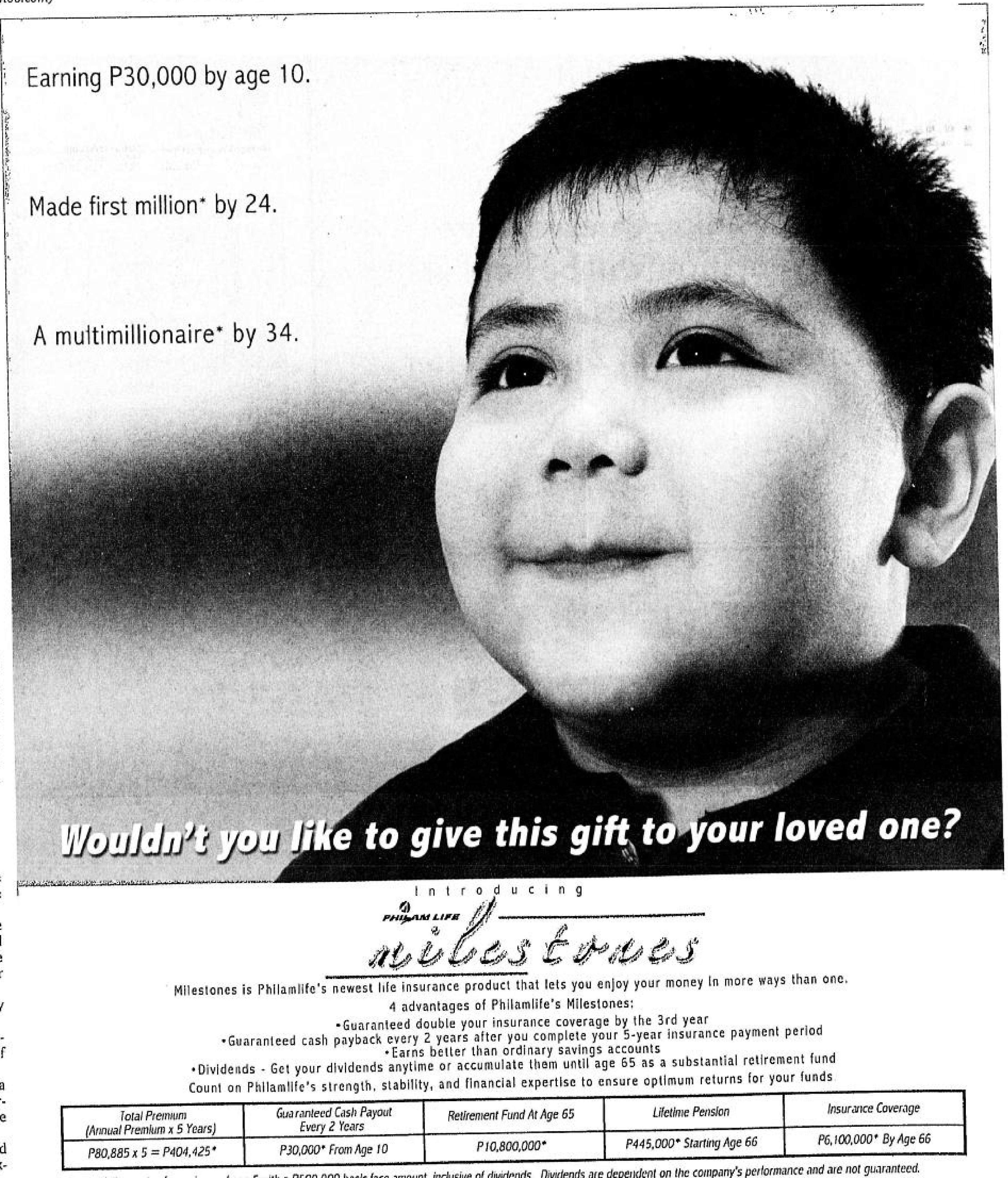
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OBITUARIES

CABOCHAN FAMILY

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OF THEIR BELOVED

RICARDO PAULINO CABOCHAN

OF
SAN MIGUEL, BULACAN

His remains lie in state at
Mount Carmel Church,
New Manila, Quezon City.
His cremation will be held at
Loyola Marikina
on Sunday, March 26, 2006 after
the 2:30 p.m. Mass at
Mount Carmel Church

LOURDES MEDRANO VASQUEZ

of Nasugbu, Batangas and
Ayala Alabang Village, Muntinlupa

Died on March 19, 2006 at the age of 61.

Her husband **Godofredo Vasquez**; children **Geevy Vasquez** and **Ivy Vasquez-Javier**; children-in-law **Yhang Errasquin-Vasquez** and **Jonathan Javier** and grandchildren **Giancey** and **Joshua** request their friends to join them in prayers.

Her remains lie in state at F. Castro Street, Nasugbu, Batangas. Interment will be on Sunday, March 26, 2006 after the 1 p.m. Mass at St. Francis Xavier Church, Nasugbu, Batangas.

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JOSE DEMETILLO MASANGKAY, SR.

(February 21, 1922 – March 20, 2006)

Peacefully joined his CREATOR, and wife LUZ YATCO MASANGKAY. He lived a full life and was a devoted selfless father. He is survived by his children: MARIBEL MASANGKAY VANN, ARLENE Y. MASANGKAY, MARISSA Y. MASANGKAY, SOCORRO MASANGKAY LOCK, JOSE MASANGKAY, JR., grandchildren: CREECHIE LOCK, CREENIE LOCK, MARC-ANTOINE VOUILLAUME, JOSE CARLO MASANGKAY, MA. CRISTINE MASANGKAY, CHOLO MASANGKAY, JOSE MARIE MASANGKAY, and nephew: RICARDO Q. YATCO.

His body lies in state at San Antonio de Padua Church, Binan, Laguna. Interment will be on March 26, 2006 after the 1:30 Mass at Centennial Chapel, Centennial, Sta. Rosa City, Laguna.

FELINO ISIDRO DE LEON

of Peñaranda, Nueva Ecija

Peacefully joined his Creator on March 22, 2006 at the age of 83.

His loving wife SIMPLICIA ABESAMIS, children NIMFA, NOMER, NORMA, NELIA & NESTOR grandchildren MANILYN, MARINEL, LIXON, REXEL, BORGY & ANNE and brothers / sisters in laws request to pray for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His remains lie in state at the family residence in Peñaranda, Nueva Ecija.

Interment will be held at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, 26 March 2006 at Peñaranda Cemetery.

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Alindogan is new DBP Chair

PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL-Arroyo has appointed former Monetary Board member Antonino L. Alindogan, Jr. as the new chair of the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP). He replaces former chair Vitaliano N. Nañagas II who resigned from the bank to return to the private sector.

Prior to his appointment, Alindogan was the Bank's consultant for microfinance, responsible for the establishment of an integrated approach to a more effective and sustainable microfinance operations in the Bank.

In his six-year term of office as Monetary Board member from August 1999 to July 2005, Alindogan volunteered to be the lead advocate of microfinance. He visited various microfinance institutions, banks, and NGOs. He attended meetings of microenterprises in their barangays, listened to them, encouraged them, and pushed for policy changes to bring microfinance in the forefront of development.

Alindogan is a magna cumlaude graduate of the De La Salle University where he completed a course in business. He is a certified public accountant, and attended the 82nd Advance Management Program of the Harvard Business School in 1979. He also trained extensively with J.P. Morgan's banking offices in New York, Zurich, London, and Singapore.

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Switch to energy-saving lamps will save RP ₱24B/year, Philips says

By Abigail L. Ho

THE COUNTRY WILL SAVE AS much as P24 billion a year and cut electricity consumption by at least 2.58 million megawatt-hours (MWh) if incandescent bulbs and fluorescent lights are replaced with more energy-efficient lighting systems.

Paul Peeters, Philips Lighting general manager for the Asean/Pacific region, said in a briefing yesterday that replacing some 25 million installed incandescent bulbs in the country with compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) would result in P19 billion in monetary savings and 2 million MWh in electricity savings a year.

Replacing all old-style "T12" fluorescent bulbs with the new-technology "T8" bulbs, on the other hand, would chalk up yearly savings of P5 billion and reduce overall electricity consumption by 580,000 MWh, he said.

Bulbs using T8 technology, he explained, were thinner and use less energy than their T12 counterparts.

He said households and commercial and industrial establishments in other parts of the world have been switching to T8 fluorescent bulbs.

"Apart from the Philippines, only Pakistan and India are using T12. The rest of the world is now using T8," he said.

These countries have been slow to switch to T12 fluorescent bulbs because of the huge difference in cost.

Incandescent bulbs sell for P26 each compared to an average of P120 each for energy-saving lamps.

Peter said people would have to realize the long-term benefits for them to trade in their incandescent bulbs for energy-saving bulbs.

"Switching is an investment that consumers will have to make," he said.

Citing Philips research, he said that if a million homes were to replace just one standard 60-watt incandescent bulb with an 11-watt energy-saver CFL, the country's overall electricity demand would drop by 38 megawatts (MW).

On the industrial side, if just 500 big industries swapped their current standard magnetic ballast-type fluorescent lamps with the new generation of energy-saving fluorescent bulbs, peak demand would be reduced by 16 MW.

Japanese outlook worsens in March

By Ronnel W. Domingo

JAPANESE FIRMS' BUSINESS SENTIMENT on the country has taken a turn for the worse.

The monthly survey by the Japan External Trade Organization showed that the firms' rating on the Philippines dropped further to a negative 10.1 in March from a negative 0.4 last month—the lowest in 11 months—due partly to a decline in overall confidence in Southeast Asia.

The report said, however, that business sentiment was expected to improve in the next two or three months to a rating of negative 2.9.

Jetro said this was in line with the expected improvement in the overall sentiment for the original members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations—including Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore—in the coming months.

The poll also showed that 47.5 percent of Asean respondents cited the "negative impacts" of high petroleum prices on their businesses.

Jetro conducts the survey to provide up-to-date information on business conditions in the Asian economy to help companies develop more effective business strategies.

Jetro polls the companies to measure year-on-year changes in their business outlook for the current month and the next two or three months.

The answers are expressed as DI, the difference between the ratio of positive and negative responses.

A bigger DI means that there are more companies with a negative outlook on their businesses in the country.

Firms were asked to compare earnings prospects, supply and demand, inventory, sales prices and accounts receivable with the same period a year earlier.

When Jetro started the monthly poll in June 2001, the Philippines rated negative in first 10 months with the DI rating bottoming at negative 40.9 in December 2001 and peaking at 22.9 in September 2004.

In the past 12 months, the Philippines posted a high DI rating of 1.6 in April 2005 and hit the lowest so far this month.

Philippine-based respondents in the August survey included 209 firms engaged in businesses involving oil, chemicals, steel, metals, electric and electronic machinery, transportation machinery and other manufacturing concerns as well as construction, real estate, transport, communication, commerce, services and other nonmanufacturing activities.

Empire . . .

From page B2

Megaworld will offer up to 3.9 billion common shares consisting of 3.5 billion primary shares and 423.2 million secondary shares.

The secondary shares to be sold are owned by Colony-CB Richard Ellis, Megaworld's foreign partner.

Megaworld hopes to raise P5 billion from the offer.

Industry analysts put the offer price at about P1.40 a share.

Megaworld closed at P1.48 a share yesterday.

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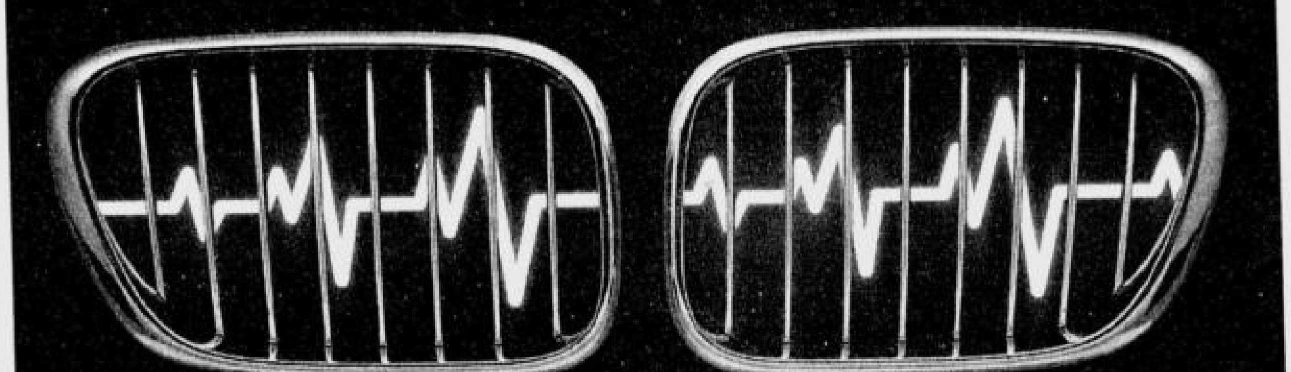

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Seminar fee is just PhP500.00. Inclusive of: Buffet lunch, morning & afternoon snacks, and a 6-month subscription to PC Magazine.

Selected participants shall be contacted prior to the event and shall be given instructions on how to forward payments. Once payment is received, the selected participants shall be given CONFIRMATION CODES. Only interested parties with confirmation codes shall be accepted into the seminars

Due to limited slots. PC Magazine reserves the right to pre-select the participants for the above seminars.

BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
Makati City, Metro Manila

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

April 6, 2006

To The Stockholders:

Pursuant to Article IV of the Amended By-Laws of the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI), notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of BPI will be held at the Grand Ballroom, Hotel Inter-Continental, Makati City, Metro Manila, on Thursday, 06 April 2006, at 9:00 A.M., for the transaction of the following business:

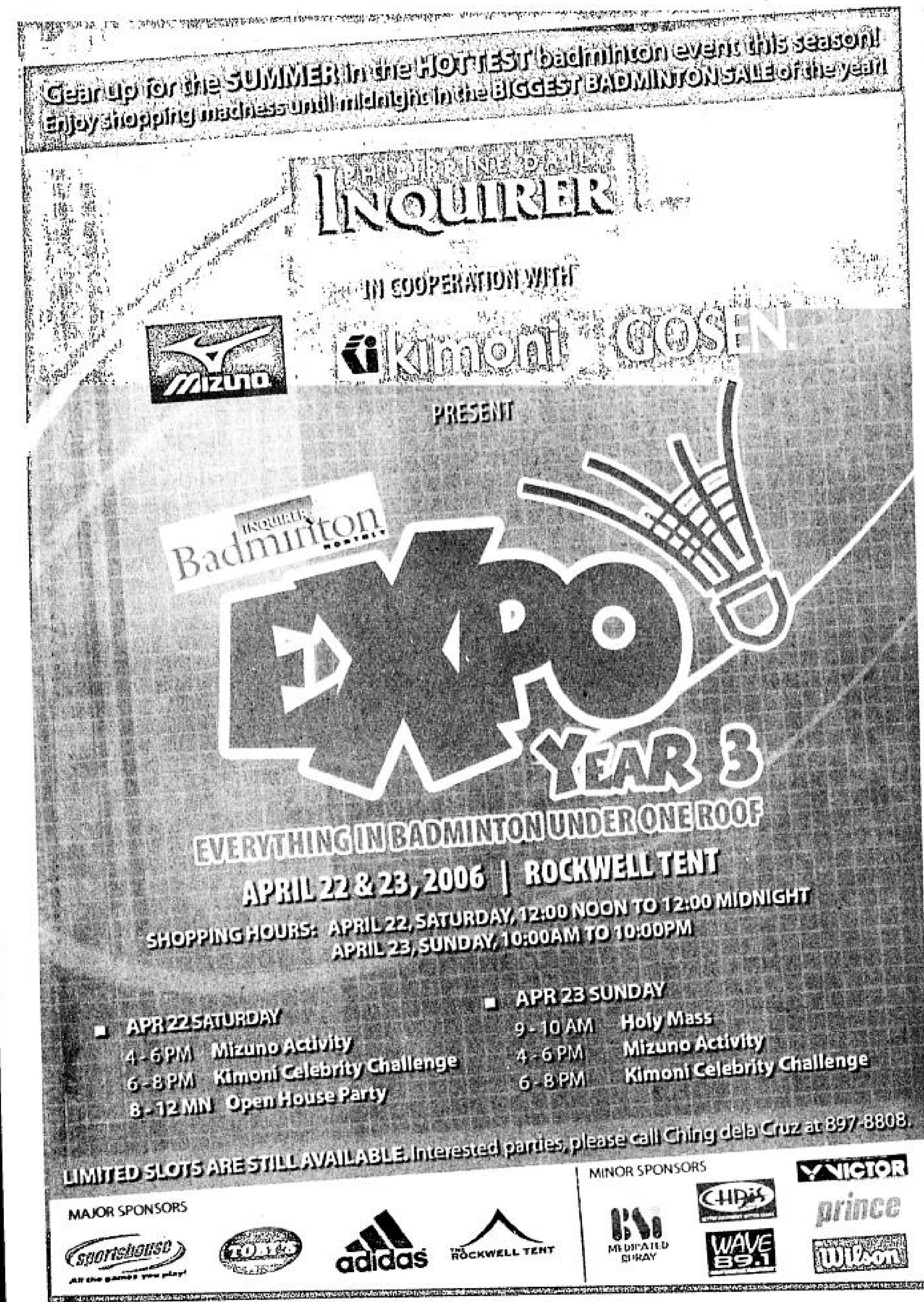
1. Calling of Meeting to Order.
2. Certification of Notice.
3. Determination and Declaration of Quorum.
4. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Stockholders on April 7, 2005 and the Special Meeting on November 11, 2005.
5. Reading of Annual Report and approval of the Bank's Statement of Condition as of December 31, 2005 incorporated in the Annual Report.
6. Approval and Confirmation of all Acts during the past year of the Board of Directors, Executive Committee, and all other Board and Management Committees and Officers of BPI.
7. Election of 15 Members of the Board of Directors.
8. Election of External Auditors and Fixing their Remuneration.
9. Declaration of Stock Dividend.
10. Directors' Bonus.
11. Other Matters.

In accordance with Article XII of the said By-Laws, the Stock and Transfer Book of BPI will be closed from March 7, 2006 to April 6, 2006. Only Stockholders of record as of March 7, 2006 will be entitled to notice and to vote at the said meeting.

If it will be inconvenient for you to attend the meeting, you may at your option, appoint another person to represent you thereat by means of a proxy, which should be submitted to the Office of the Corporate Secretary of BPI, 19th Floor, BPI Building, Ayala Avenue corner Paseo de Roxas, Makati City, Metro Manila, not later than 5:00 P.M. of March 27, 2006. Validation of proxies shall be held at the same office on March 29, 2006 at 4:00 P.M.

When signing as attorney-in-fact, executor, administrator, guardian, or in any other representative capacity, please give full title and file papers showing your authority.

FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
(Sgd.) CARLOS B. AQUINO
Vice President &
Corporate Secretary



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Investing in women farmers

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

COMMENTARY

AS THE WOMEN'S MONTH ENDS, WE MUST realize that the economic empowerment of women farmers is key to our country's development. They constitute half of the largest sector in the economy and are largely responsible for putting food on our table. However, women farmers not only belong to the poorest sector; they are further disadvantaged because of the bias given to their male counterparts in development opportunities. This is ironic, because several studies have shown that spending on women farmers often produces the highest return on investment.

Facts and figures

In her article, "Protecting the Rights of Women Farmers," Nepal's Kamala Sarup states: "According to FAO estimates, women produce more than 50 percent of the food grown worldwide. This includes up to 80 percent of food produced by women in African countries, 60 percent in Asia, and between 30 and 40 percent in South America. But still, women are getting poorer. The percentage of women below the poverty line has increased by 50 percent since the 1970s, while the comparable figure for men increased by only 30 percent."

A recent World Bank study showed that if women received the same education as men, farm yields could rise by as much as 22 percent. However, women farmers have access to only 5 percent of agricultural extension services worldwide.

Marie Randriamamonjy, FAO's Women in Development Service chief, states: "Because of this gender bias, policy-makers have very little data or analytical tools to measure the true social and economic value of women's farm labor. As a result, rural women are ignored when national agricultural policies are designed."

Philippine situation

Teresita Oliveros of the National Federation of Peasant Women and Asian Peasant Women Network, writes: "Of the 11.2 million total labor force in agriculture, 8.5 million are landless. This is based on government data which counts men primarily as farmers and, therefore, part of the labor force. However, the number of landless peasant women approximates that of their male counterparts. This is based on the total rural female population 15 years old and above, with a total number of 8 million."

Oliveros adds: "Since much of the prime arable land is planted with export/commercial crops that benefit landlords, bureaucrats and capitalists, women are forced to till far-flung rocky uplands needed for the family's survival. Prevailing patrilocal land ownership incapacitates women's access to credit and training that can result in an increase in productivity. Due to sexual division of labor, women are also burdened with housework."

Women power

Reversing the sad state of women farmers and harnessing their largely untapped potential requires investing in women power. In October 2003, the Philippine Peasant Institute (now called Centro Saka) spearheaded the First National Rural Women's Congress. This was aimed at empowering rural women to secure their equitable share of opportunities.

Two and a half years later, the rural women have achieved much. They are now organized as the Pambansang Koalisyon ng Kababaihan sa Kanayunan or Rural Women's Coalition, aligned with the Alyansa Agrikultura. They are in 52 provinces, with 159 people organizations and 69 nongovernment organizations.

Last year, consultations were held in 30 provinces. For many of these provinces, it was the first time rural women emerged as a force. Rural women are now adequately represented in the regional Gender and Development (GAD) councils. They are also identified in many GAD plans with specific budgets allocated for them. Before this, rural women were practically invisible.

In the priority area of training, PKK's secretary general Daryl Leyesa states, "As a national coalition, we are asking that the bias for training men in agriculture be stopped and women given their equitable share. In addition, because practically all the government training programs are given to government-initiated farmer organizations, we ask that these training programs also be given to organizations initiated by rural women."

Numbers count

Over the years, the Department of Agriculture has improved its services to rural women. There are still areas of improvement.

Decisions for investments on women farmers are largely influenced by the DA regional executive directors. However, today, only one out of the 14 REDs is a woman: Jindra Demeterio of Region 6. It is, therefore, recommended that there be a time-specific program to increase the number of women in the DA senior management, especially in the regions. In the meantime, it is hoped that priority attention be given to investments in rural women.

(For inquiries and suggestions, email agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax 02-8516635.)

Dette L. Nacario:

a woman leader in computer industry

ICT industry is a man's world. Think again. It may be an Adam-dominated society but in this modern-day era where impossible is considered a myth, and the backward state of living was transformed into an advancement of human stature, women have risen from their immemorial slumber, projecting everyone their auspicious depot of wisdom.

Therefore this Women's month, a notable exemplar of contemporary lady is worth hailing for the breakthroughs she had accomplished in the computer industry. She maybe surrounded with tons of technical specification and out-of-this-world jargons, but Bernadette Nacario, Country General Manager for HP PSG and IPG, emerged victorious from the rest and attained an icon symbol in the ICT industry.

Epitome of women in IT

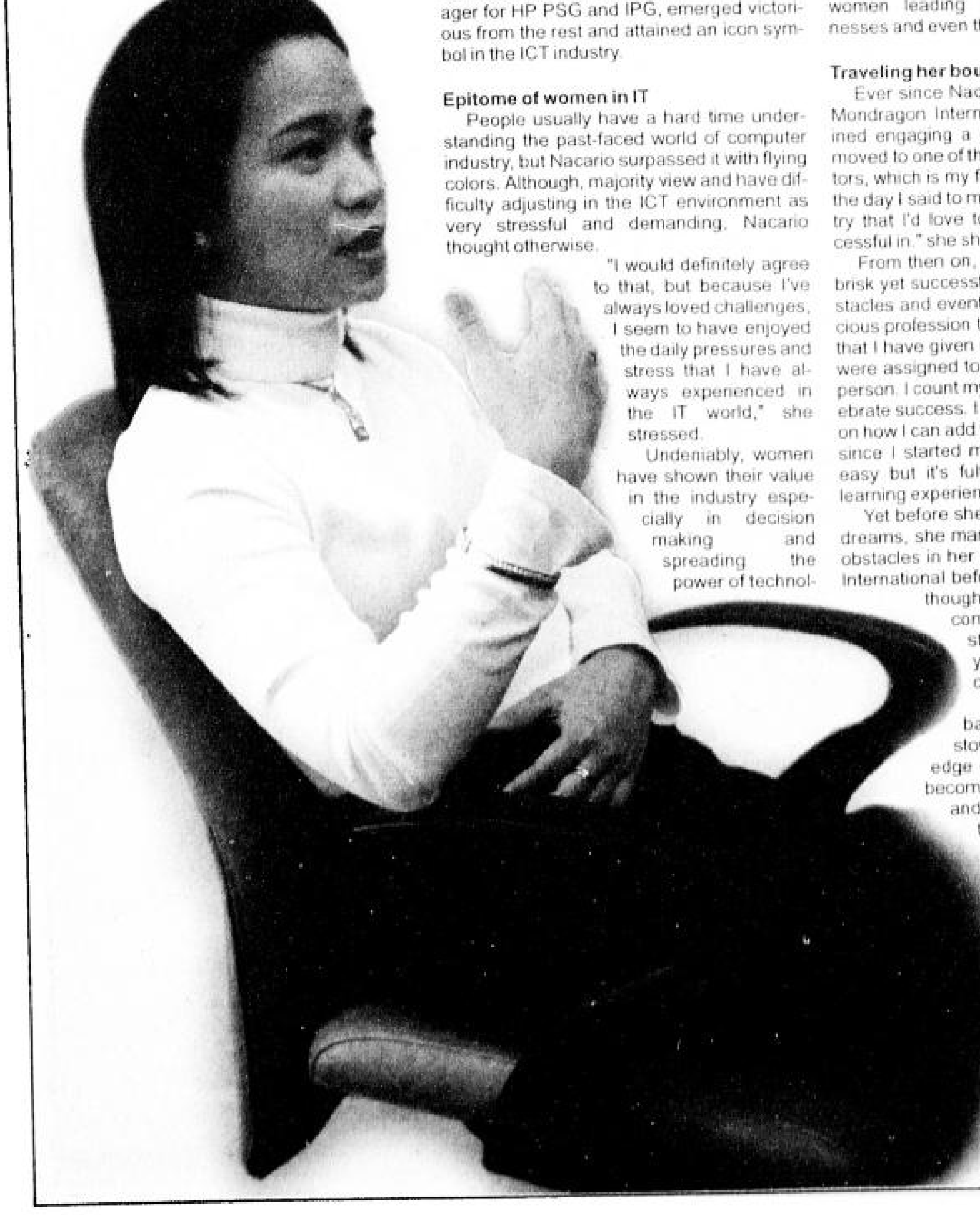
People usually have a hard time understanding the past-faced world of computer industry, but Nacario surpassed it with flying colors. Although, majority view and have difficulty adjusting in the ICT environment as very stressful and demanding, Nacario thought otherwise.

"I would definitely agree to that, but because I've always loved challenges, I seem to have enjoyed the daily pressures and stress that I have always experienced in the IT world," she stressed.

Undeniably, women have shown their value in the industry especially in decision making and spreading the power of technology to the world. Nacario regarded women leaders as the main key in promoting computer literacy in the country. She explained that women having their own unique way of influencing people such traits can be used to change the perspective of people on technology.

Nacario added that women are the one calling the shot when it comes to shopping and purchases especially of consumer products, thus it will play an important role in the future products that will be introduced in the market.

"It is expected that women leaders can also dominate the IT industry. Philippines has always been known to have a number of women leading different industries/businesses and even the country," she said.



Traveling her boulevard of success

Ever since Nacario started her career in Mondragon International, she never imagined engaging a career in ICT industry. "I moved to one of the biggest local IT distributors, which is my first IT exposure. That was the day I said to myself that this is the industry that I'd love to grow and become successful in," she shared.

From then on, Nacario took her stride in brisk yet successful manner, braving all obstacles and eventually giving her most precious profession to date. "I would rather say that I have given my best in all the jobs that were assigned to me. I'm a very committed person. I count my contributions before I celebrate success. I continuously look for ways on how I can add value. I've gone a long way since I started my career in IT. It was not easy but it's fulfilling and a continuously learning experience," she furthered.

Yet before she reached the climax of her dreams, she managed to surpass zenith of obstacles in her previous stints in Siemens International before joining HP in 1999. Although she moved to a friendly competitor IBM in 2001 and stayed there for almost three years, her boulevard of success still led her back to HP.

Her celebrated comeback in mid 2004 in HP bestowed an arsenal of knowledge on Nacario entailing her to become flexible in appreciating and understanding the positioning of HP's wide array of products in the market appropriately. Her extensive work experiences made her versatile and allowed her to recommend several ideas and concepts.

As HP PSG and IPG Country General Manager, Nacario believed that individuals possess unique strength and capabilities that if put together could yield tremendous results. Her ultimate mission is to develop and groom more capable managers and leaders for HP.

What makes her truly proud of working for HP is the fact that it is a company that strongly promotes a high performance environment without compromising integrity and respect for individuals, takes care of its employees including individual growth and a company that has a soul.

"HP is one of the best companies to work for. All employees are made aware of the "HP way" where it talks about our culture and our standards of business conduct which you can apply not only professionally but even in your own personal life," Nacario furthered.

A typical lady-executive

For a busy-bee like Nacario one may conclude her of having an infinite round a clock and 25-hour human living. But Nacario is like other women, juggling work and finding leisure in her almost droning life. Nacario's answers to such queries will utterly change impressions and will lead to realization that beyond her stature is a witty and amicable part.

Can you describe yourself when you're not in the office?

I've always been seen as a fast-paced person, someone who's always on the go. My job requires an immense amount of time for socializing and constant interaction with people. So outside work, I prefer to stay home and fix my room and stuff. I'm actually a homebody but I do enjoy going out with real close friends to talk about life in general. I consciously find time to be with my mom especially during weekends after I lost my dad. It's not an obligation but a gesture to show love and gratitude.

How do you spend your leisure time?

Going to spa is my way to distress especially after an out of the country business trip. I sometimes play badminton. I love shopping but I seldom have the time to do it that's why I just normally do my shopping in Duty Free when I'm on a business trip. I have two cute dogs that I play with when I'm not too tired. I also love going to the beach. I've been to nice resorts in other countries but for me, Boracay and Palawan are still the best.

What makes you busy aside from your work loads?

I love reading but I hardly finish a book because of the many emails that I have to attend to. Having said that, reading emails has become a hobby, I'm so attached to my tablet PC that I bring it anywhere even when I'm in a salon. I'm not a music lover but my new IPod Nano makes me enjoy music more nowadays. I love going to new restaurants, I've always enjoyed Thai, Japanese, Italian and Filipino food. Recently, I started to love Persian food as well.

How much of HP has already been incorporated in your daily lifestyle? Do you influence others to use HP products?

Yes, HP has so much influence in my daily life. Other than the dependency on my tablet PC for my everyday work and tons of emails, my IPAQ as my calendar assistant and phone, my all-in-one printer for all my daily printing needs, the HP culture has become a part of me already. Yes, I encourage other people to use HP products especially those that I personally enjoy and those that have been useful to me. I've always been so passionate in sharing the positive experiences I get on technology products.

What are the things you can't live without?

I still can't imagine life without my family and friends; I also can't imagine it without a decent work. Im sure I'd struggle without my mobile phone, tablet PC, car and wallet. In another perspective, I don't think I can survive without prayers.

How do you balance your career with personal life?

Maintaining a work life balance is really tough especially when your job requires so much time and attention. However, it is a discipline that has to be in place. To tell you frankly, I haven't really been successful in striking a good balance between work and personal life, yet I'm continuously working on it. I've been so used to working late at home, which I'm trying to lessen now. It's a conscious effort to keep my weekends for my personal stuff, bonding time with Mom and friends, church service on Sundays and other personal activities. However, it is equally important that you focus and don't waste anytime when you're at work.

A purpose-driven life

A life without an objective makes it futile and barren, thus Nacario wanted to possess a purpose driven life. "We don't just live to work or we don't just work to live. Life should have a purpose to make it worthwhile. Knowing your purpose in life is a continuous quest. What's important is you know how you can add value to your work, to your family and to other people's lives," she stressed. Attributed to her success is maintaining and enriching her life physically emotionally, socially, and spiritually.

She may be on the top of her mountainous successes yet Nacario persists on striving for the best and upholding her current status. "There are still a lot of things that I want to accomplish in HP. Aside from maintaining our leadership position in the market, I still want us to grow our business in areas that we have not penetrated. I also would want to see myself contributing further in promoting and advocating computer literacy in the Philippines. I really hope that with the help of IT tools and education, we would be able to change the lives of our less fortunate countrymen," Nacario stated of her future goals.

About HP

HP is a technology solutions provider to consumers, businesses and institutions globally. The company's offerings span IT infrastructure, global services, business and home computing, and imaging and printing. For the four fiscal quarters ended Jan. 31, 2006, HP revenue totaled $87.9 billion. More information about HP (NYSE, Nasdaq: HPQ) is available at www.hp.com.

ADVT

LTO: Rising number of tricycles offsets drop in other PUV registrations

PDI PHOTO

Low capital requirement lures many to go into tricycle operation business.

By Daxim L. Lucas

NEARLY 900,000 PUBLIC UTILITY vehicles are now plying the country's overtaxed and underdeveloped road network, with tricycles being the most popular form of transport, according to the Land Transportation Office (LTO).

Latest data from the LTO showed that there were already 898,028 for-hire motor vehicles registered all over the country as of end-2005. This represents an increase of 1.47-percent or 13,021 units from the level reported as of end-2004.

According to the LTO, the most ubiquitous mode of transportation in the country is the tricycle with a total of 584,698 units registered as of end 2005. This means tricycles accounted for 65 percent of the country's public utility vehicles.

Tricycles are often difficult to regulate on the road, their drivers often violating traffic regulations with impunity. The sheer number of tricycles on Metro Manila's primary and secondary roads, for example, makes it difficult for traffic enforcers to catch each violator.

According to the LTO, registered tricycles also posted the largest increase in number among all types of public utility vehicles in 2005, rising 29,358 units from end -2004 level—mainly because operators are attracted by relatively low start-up and operating costs.

The LTO figures also revealed that the number of public jeepneys operating throughout the country declined by 4,229 units last year to 210,348 units. Last year also marked the third year since 1990 when registered jeepneys declined in number.

The number of registered buses also declined in 2005.

According to the LTO, 22,385 buses were registered across the country last year, representing a slight decline from 24,080 units in the previous year.

The number of taxis plying city streets also declined from 47,346 units in 2005 to only 40,442 units in 2005.

DBP increasing funds for wholesale lending

Assisting more livelihood projects

By Doris C. Dumlao

STATE-OWNED DEVELOPMENT BANK OF the Philippines is planning to increase by 24 percent its wholesale lending portfolio this year to P42 billion from P33.9 billion in 2005.

DBP president Reynaldo David said that in 2005, P9.4 billion in new wholesale loans were booked, bringing the bank's total outstanding wholesale loans to P33.9 billion. This accounted for 39 percent of the bank's total loan portfolio, excluding inter-bank loans.

DBP's wholesale lending window, which provided finances to livelihood projects in the country, posted P806 million in net earnings, 23 percent of the bank's net income last year.

"DBP, through its wholesale lending operations, continued to ride high amid economic challenges last year," David said during the recent appreciation party for DBP's participating financial institutions.

"By assisting some 8,522 projects nationwide last year, we helped create more than 10,000 additional jobs and earned for the government about P2.6 billion in tax revenue yearly," David said.

He said a major chunk of the wholesale funds were channeled to rural-based industries. Lending to micro, and small and medium enterprises accounted for the bulk of the beneficiaries.

The DBP also awarded Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. as its most outstanding participating bank for all-around performance in 2005, as the country's biggest bank turned in the "most balanced and substantial participation" in DBP's wholesale lending program.

Bank of the Philippine Islands bagged the most number of citations, such as the award for infrastructure and logistics development, social services development and environmental development. BPI was also inducted to the Hall of Fame after topping the industrial guarantee and loan fund (commercial bank category) and all-around performance categories for the past five years.

First Macro Bank was awarded top bank under the micro/small medium enterprise development program for the rural bank category. For the commercial bank category, Chinatrust Commercial Bank bagged the same award.

For efficient mobilization of funds through loan syndication, Equitable PCIBank was cited as the most active loan syndicator. Citibank Philippines was elevated to the Hall of Fame after topping said category for five straight years.

Land Bank of the Philippines was also cited for being DBP's active partner in the area of securities underwriting and issue management, as well as for its support for the development of DBP's investment banking business.

Chevron adding more service stations, upgrading facilities

By Abigail L. Ho

CHEVRON PHILIPPINES HAS EARMARKED more than P375 million this year to expand its network of service stations, upgrade its underground storage tanks and support the launch of its "clean" gasoline in the country.

In a briefing Wednesday evening, Chevron country chair Randy Johnson said the oil company would embark on a major upgrading this year to keep its foothold in the Philippine market.

After upgrading around 140 stations last year, he said the company was planning to modernize another 200 stations this year.

It will replace its existing underground storage tanks with ones that are made with double walls of fiberglass, he said.

He said Chevron also continued to replace its lighting systems with those that consumed less energy, in support of the government's energy conservation efforts and in a move to reduce its electricity expenses.

The company will also change the injection systems in its terminals to support its new "clean" gasoline, Caltex with Techron.

BOP surplus of P1.6B seen by yearend

From page B1

BOP surplus in the first two months of the year, but some of those inflows would be used to retire debts later this year, thus reducing the BOP surplus by year's end.

The BOP measures the foreign exchange transactions between the domestic economy and the rest of the world.

Its major components are the current account and the capital and financial account.

The current account records trade in goods and services, as well as cash transfers, such as from migrant workers.

Capital and financial accounts includes foreign investment flows.

Any transaction which gives rise to a payment by a Philippine resident, like importation, is a deficit item in the BOP, while any transaction which gives rise to a receipt, like exporting or inward remittance, is a surplus item.

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid
Republic of the Philippines

Procurement of a Contract for the Construction of the Riviera Sports and Country Club, Inc. (RSCCI) Main Clubhouse in Silang, Cavite

1. The AFP Retirement and Separation Benefits System (AFP-RSBS), through the Corporate Budget for the contract approved by the Governing Board intends to apply the sum of **Two Hundred Twenty Three Million Three Hundred Two Thousand Two Hundred Seventy Two Philippine Pesos (Php 223,302,272.00)** being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Construction of the Riviera Sports and Country Club, Inc. (RSCCI) Main Clubhouse. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The AFP-RSBS now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for Construction of the RSCCI Main Clubhouse, consisting of three (3) contiguous buildings: a Sports Club, a Health Club and a Pavilion situated at By-pass Road, Aguinaldo Hi-way in Silang, Cavite. Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested Bidders must submit their LOIs **on or before 5:00 P.M. of 31 March 2006 at CMA-C RSBS Building 424 Capinpin Avenue Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City** and secure the Eligibility Documents therefrom. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents: **17 April 2006 at 9:00 A.M.** at the AFP-RSBS Board Room, AFP-RSBS Building, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A 9184, only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.
4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the AFP-RSBS and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of **Twenty Thousand Philippine Pesos (Php 20,000.00)**. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative **on 19 April 2006**
6. The AFP-RSBS will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders **on 04 May 2006 at 10:00 A.M. at the AFP-RSBS Board Room, AFP-RSBS Building 424 Capinpin Avenue, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.**
7. Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before **19 May 2006 at 9:00 A.M.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit and in an amount of **Two Million Two hundred Thirty Three Thousand Twenty Two and 72/100 Philippine Pesos (Php 2,233,022.72)** or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be **on 19 May 2006 at 9:05 A.M. at the AFP-RSBS Board Room, AFP-RSBS Building 424 Capinpin Avenue, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below on 19 May 2006.
8. The AFP-RSBS reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
AFP Retirement and Separation Benefits System
AFP-RSBS Building, 424 Capinpin Avenue
Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Telephone Nos. 9114071 local 206/289/281

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CALENERGY WINS AN ANVIL AWARD

CalEnergy International recently received an Anvil Award of Merit for its Casecnan Watershed Pilot Reforestation Program for successfully implementing an information dissemination and educational campaign to increase community awareness on the importance of watersheds and the need to protect them from degradation. Organized by the Public Relations Society of the Philippines, the Anvil Awards is considered to be the "Oscar" of Public Relations practice in the Philippines.

ADVT

Photo shows CalEnergy International President Joseph Sullivan receiving the Anvil Award of Merit trophy from Ms. Kori Limbo, Executive Director of Mode Matrix Manila, the agency tasked by CalEnergy to implement the PR component of the Casecnan Watershed Pilot Reforestation Program. Joining Mr. Sullivan is CalEnergy Vice President and Corporate Counsel Linda B. Castillo.

Palace moves to fast track dev't of halal export sector

Boosting RP chances in $150-B global market

By Ronnel W. Domingo

MALACANANG HAS ORDERED concerned agencies to harmonize efforts to promote and develop the local halal export industry.

The order was contained in Memorandum Order No. 201, which was signed last December. It was referring primarily to government policies on compliance to international standards of the halal trade.

The harmonization of policies on halal is expected to improve the chances of the local industry to penetrate the $150-billion global market for halal food products.

Halal is an Arabic word that can be generally translated as "permissible." In relation to consumables, it refers to products that Muslims are allowed to use, eat and drink.

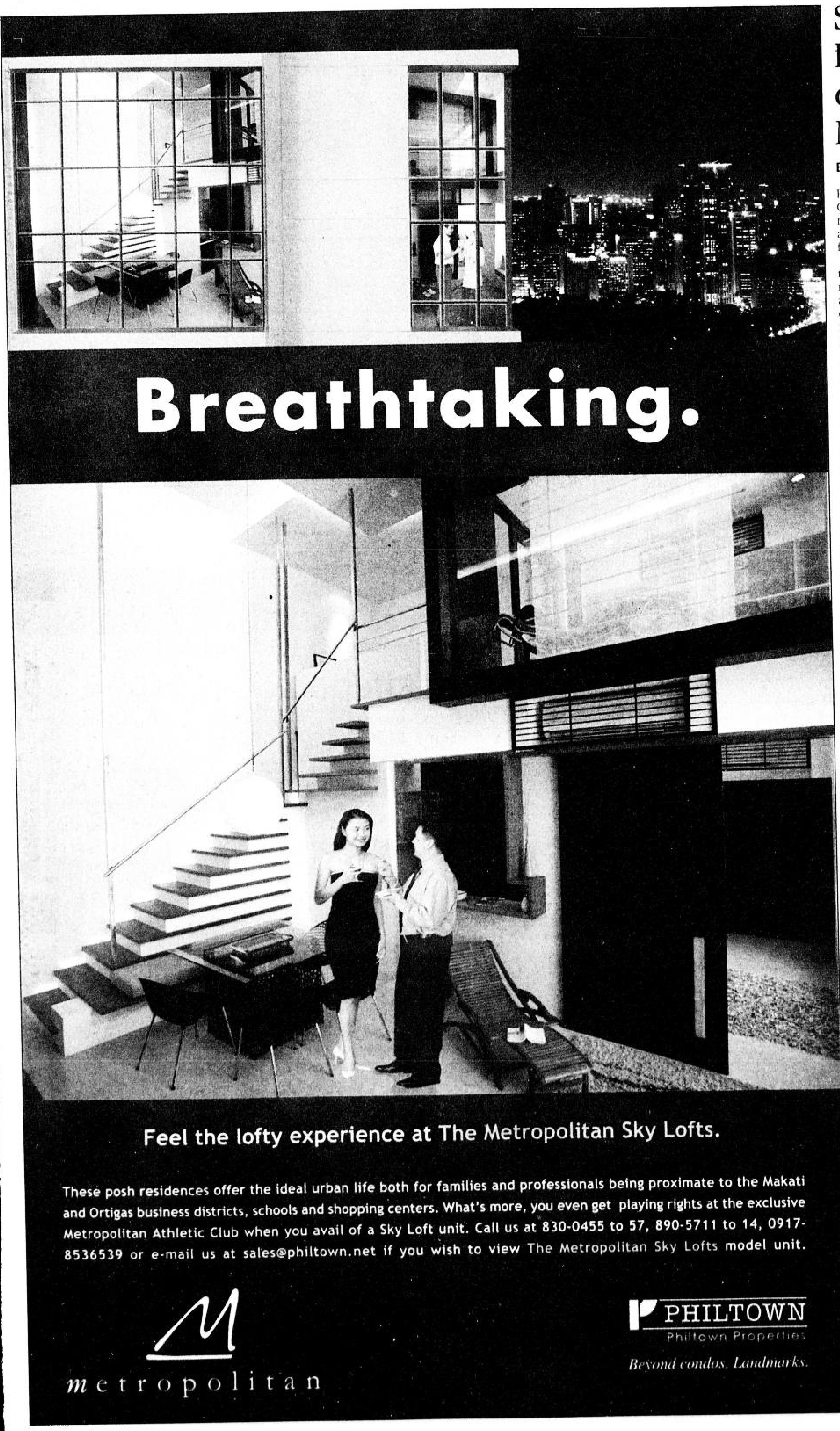
MO 201 was also aimed at ensuring the effective implementation of the Halal Export Trade Development Program and capturing a sizeable share of the global market.

The agencies involved in the promotion and development of the industry are the Departments of Trade and Industry, Health, Agriculture, Science and Technology, Tourism, and the Office of Muslim Affairs.

"We do not want our exporters to be left out of the halal market. We want them to be competitive and be able to take advantage of opportunities (that abound)," Trade Secretary Peter B. Favila said.

In it recommendation for the issuance of MO 201, the DTI said progress of the program had been delayed by the "fractious" halal efforts of different agencies and non-government organizations in the country.

The department cited as proof the United Arab Emirates' confiscation of foodstuffs from the Philippines two years ago due to non-compliance of the products to halal standards even through they were "certified" halal.



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SMC to buy ₱500M worth of cassava from Mindoro yearly

By Michelle V. Remo

FOOD AND BEVERAGE GIANT SAN MIGUEL Corp. has forged a deal with the local government of Oriental Mindoro for the purchase of at least P500 million worth of cassava yearly from farmers in the province.

Congressman Rodolfo Valencia, representative of the first district of Oriental Mindoro, told reporters yesterday that the local government and farmers' cooperatives have started working on the development of 10,000 hectares of land into cassava plantations to match to meet the province's commitment to SMC.

Valencia said Oriental Mindoro expects to finish preparing 10,000 hectares of land before the end of the year. The goal of the local government and farmers' cooperatives was to develop a total of 20,000 hectares to generate P1 billion in revenue a year.

"We will be very competitive in the production of cassava given the size of our available land," Valencia said in a press briefing. He said the local government of Oriental Mindoro would also ask other large companies to buy the province's agricultural produce.

Valencia said SMC would use cassava as input in the production of alcoholic beverages.

Oriental Mindoro's aggressive efforts to market its agricultural products come with the local government's initiative to boost business activity in the province. Aside from developing its agriculture sector, Valencia said, the province was also targeting to increase revenue from other industries, especially tourism and power.

On April 5- 7, the local government of Oriental Mindoro, with the help of partners Shell Exploration BV (SPEX) and the University of Asia and the Pacific, will hold an investment summit where business potentials of the province will be discussed before potential foreign and domestic investors.

Valencia said the local government of Oriental Mindoro had considered infrastructure development as its key agenda this year to help attract investors.

The national government has agreed to earmark P1.2 billion this year for the improvement of Oriental Mindoro's national highway, while other farm-to-market roads are also being completed.

LRTA to press for fare hike bid

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT AUTHORITY YESterday stressed the need for Malacañang to approve its P10 fare hike petition to help it recover large operating losses.

The renewed call for a fare increase came a day after the transportation department withdrew its petition for a similar fare hike for the Metro Rail Transit (MRT) system, saying the riding public could not afford the additional cost.

In a telephone interview, LRTA Administrator Mel Robles said the proposed fare hike—if approved by President Arroyo—would raise up to P900 million in additional revenue per year. This will reduce by the same amount the yearly government subsidy to the rail operator.

Robles said the fare hike became necessary as early as 2004.

The LRTA board has approved an average fare hike of P10 for LRT line 1, which runs from Caloocan to Baclaran, and LRT line 2 which runs from Recto to Santolan, Pasig.

Robles said the P900 million the state would save by approving the fare hike could be used for other government projects in the fields of education and health care.

"Right now, even non-riders are subsidizing the fares of LRT riders," Robles said, explaining that tax revenues were used to support LRT's operations.

"With the fare increase, we can shift the burden to those who are actually riding LRT trains."

The proposed fare hike would not be enough to bring the firm to its break even point, but will still help reduce its dependence on state support. *Daxim Lucas*

BUSINESS *Friday*

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph

Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

Does your billboard have stopping power?

Signage was the earliest form of advertising used by Egyptian merchants

CIRCUSES were the first to extensively use billboards as an advance promotion tool.

By Karen V. De Asis
Contributor

IF NEW YORK HAS Times Square, home to one of the world's best and spectacular displays of billboards, Manila has Edsa from the junction of Mandaluyong to Makati that is filled with huge advertising visuals, earning it the tag billboard avenue.

Early billboard forms

Billboards happen to be the world's oldest form of advertising. Signage was the earliest form of marketing communications used by the first Egyptian merchants who chiseled sales and promotional messages on stone tablets, later posting them along public roads.

Improvements in printing production led to the evolution from hand-chiseled stone tablet signs to more aesthetically designed posters, originally called bills, in the 1800s.

Billboard as a media strategy was originally extensively used by circuses, whose owners invested heavily in advanced promotions. Many of the circus owners eventually became providers of billboards themselves.

In the 20th century, marketers began to seriously look at billboards as a means to establish brand awareness. This was also the same period when outdoor shrines like the New York City's Times Square in the East Coast and Hollywood's Sunset Strip in the West Coast rose due to the huge number of spectacular displays by brand icons like Coke, Kelloggs, Levi's, Wrigley's, etc. Both shrines reign as the outdoor capital of the world even today. New York City's Time Square extends along Broadway Avenue, 7th, 43rd and 47th streets while Sunset Strip is a 2.2-mile stretch along Sunset Boulevard running between Beverly Hills and the city of Los Angeles. Advertisers are not only encouraged to construct bigger and brighter displays in these areas but the City Planning Commission mandates it due to its tourism value.

US BILLBOARDS now have tourism value.

Over time, the increasing number of billboard suppliers in the US has led to the creation of the Outdoor Advertising Association of America (OAAA). In the Philippines, a self-regulatory body, the Outdoor Advertising Association of the Philippines, was established in 1964 to help enforce public safety consciousness in the construction of outdoor signs and structures among member companies.

Growth of billboards

DOES/ B2-3

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RoRo 2GO

Henry Sy: Big brother of Filipino entrepreneurs

THE PRESIDENT with the retail taipan.

MANY SUCCESS STORIES HAD its roots in SM. In the late 1990s, SM ran an institutional campaign that featured testimonials from people whose lives revolved around SM. Here's what they had to say about the guiding hand of SM Group Founder and Chair Henry Sy's, who recently received the Big Brother of Filipino Entrepreneurs Award from the Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship.

"Working with SM has allowed me to grow in both artistic and business aspects. I'd like to say that without SM's support and encouragement, there would be no Cesar Gaupo."—Cesar Gaupo, Fashion Designer

"SM stores have become an important showcase of our products. Apart from this, management has been very supportive - always updating us on new designs and assisting us on the business side. Today, we not only deliver our wrought iron furniture to SM, but export these as well."

The Navarro Family—Rod, Siony, Ricky Store suppliers

"Since we joined SM, we have grown from a struggling cottage industry to a dynamic business. What makes the difference is the SM management's all out encouragement and support, which includes helping us get working capital from Banco de Oro. And the importance it gives its suppliers - big and small."

Fely and Emil Nadres Store Suppliers, Barong Filipino

"The gallery in a mall concept began during the 1991 Sanso exhibit at the SM Megamall.

Today, as a gallery owner at the SM Artwalk, I am impressed at how art has become accessible to practically everyone. At SM, art appreciation has become part of the malling experience."

Evita Sarenas Gallery Owner, Finale Gallery

"SM has been with us throughout all this time, assigning us prime areas in Cebu, which gave a lot of prestige to our brand, and giving Cebuano entrepreneurs like us a chance to make it in Metro Manila, " said Jay and Camille Aldeguer of Island Souvenirs.

"It is SM's personal touch that is key to our relationship. As tenants, we're not only given space and left to ourselves. SM's management has given us a lot encouragement and assurance, and helps us in every way to realize our market potentials."

Paul Almendras and Cesar Montelibano Mall Tenants, Almon Marina

The PCE, a private and nonprofit institution that promotes entrepreneurship education and the development of a Filipino culture of enterprise, unanimously selected Sy. The selection committee agreed that Sy epitomizes the established entrepreneur who has singularly spawned the rise of other competitive Filipino entrepreneurs.

"He has patiently given time to other entrepreneurs, and has continued to redefine the country's business landscape and invigorate the Philippine economy," the committee stated.

Entrepreneurs like Ben Chan of Bench, Johnlu Koa of French Baker attest to his guiding hand in carving out their success.

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
Davao City Branch

INVITATION TO BID

The Social Security System is inviting offers to purchase by way of sealed bids the following properties:

	Description	Property Location	Minimum Bid
1	150 sq.m. TCT No. T-285756 w/ poorly maintained 48.83 sq.m. bungalow	#1212 Mango St., Lot 12, Blk 2, Sto. Domingo Village 2, Sasa, Davao City	271,000.00
2	206 sq.m. TCT No. T-330264 w/ poorly maintained 47.41 sq.m. bungalow	#595-A San Jose St, Blk 9 Lot 4, DDF Village, Mandug Davao City	156,200.00
3	150 sq.m. TCT No. T-326967 w/ poorly maintained 46.60 sq.m. bungalow	#26 Dama de Noche St, Blk 2 Lot 18, Landmark Subd. 3, Sasa, Davao City	240,500.00
4	150 sq.m. TCT No. T-330260 w/ poorly maintained 48.33 sq.m. bungalow	#107 Sapphiro St, Lot 6, Blk 1 Landmark Subdivision 1 Sasa, Davao City	219,300.00
5	187 sq.m. TCT No. T-330269 w/ fairly maintained 60.76 sq.m. bungalow	Narra St., Blk 5, Lot 305 Blk 9, DDF Village, Mandug Davao City	192,500.00
6	240 sq.m. TCT No. T-330278 w/ poorly maintained 61.38 sq.m. bungalow	#485-A Mercury St., Lot 10 Blk 1, DDF Village, Mandug Davao City	175,300.00
7	201 sq.m. TCT No. T-330271 w/ well maintained 87.90 sq.m. bungalow	L-349-D-8-B Sunnyville Subd Talomo, Davao City	564,500.00
8	150 sq.m. TCT No. T-288762 w/ well maintained 48.02 sq.m. bungalow	#75 Yakal St., Lot 4-C-3-C-10-A Doña Pilar Vill, Sasa, Davao City	304,500.00
9	142 sq.m. TCT No. T-326065 w/ fairly maintained 74.40 sq.m. bungalow	#116 Range Rover St., Lot 24 Blk 3, Sarphil Village, Agdao Davao City	392,900.00
10	150 sq.m. TCT No. T-294692 w/ poorly maintained 42.77 sq.m. bungalow	#9 Woodpecker St., Lot 7 Blk 6, Dona Pilar Vill., Sasa Davao City	240,500.00
11	120 sq.m. TCT No. T-332243 w/ dilapidated 45.60 sq.m. bungalow	Blk 4, Lot 3, Davao Farms Subd. Agdao, Davao City	169,900.00
12	162 sq.m. TCT No. T-321686 w/ poorly maintained 45.27 sq.m. bungalow	#5911 Chico St., Lot 11, Blk 9 Sto. Domingo Vill. 2, Pampanga Davao City	318,600.00
13	211 sq.m. TCT No. T-346316 w/ poorly maintained 60.00 sq.m. bungalow	Talisay St., Blk 4, Lot 107 DDF Village, Mandug Davao City	166,300.00
14	204 sq.m. TCT No. T-330313 w/ poorly maintained 60.76 sq.m. bungalow	Corner Zobel Avenue Mahogany St., DDF Village, Mandug Davao City	166,500.00
15	358 sq.m. TCT No. T-337415 w/ poorly maintained 60.00 sq.m. bungalow	#729-A Visayan St., Lot 11 Blk 14, DDF Village, Mandug Davao City	253,100.00
16	150 sq.m. TCT No. T-326064 w/ fairly maintained 60.46 sq.m. bungalow	#415 Siniguelas St., Lot 5, Blk 1 Sto. Domingo Vill. II. Pampanga, Davao City	321,000.00
17	213 sq.m. TCT No. T-347085 w/ poorly maintained 60.00 sq.m. bungalow	#786-A Riverside St., Blk 16 Lot 17, DDF Village, Mandug Davao City	155,600.00
18	150 sq.m. TCT No. T-330320 w/ fairly maintained 47.70 sq.m. bungalow	#413 Siniguelas St., Lot 3 Blk 1, Sto. Domingo Vill. 2 Pampanga, Davao City	284,200.00
19	150 sq.m. TCT No. T-326063 w/ poorly maintained 47.70 sq.m. bungalow	Lot 7, Blk 2, Rambutan Street Sto. Domingo Vill. 2, Sasa Davao City	259,500.00
20	157 sq.m. TCT No. T-330312 w/ poorly maintained 60.00 sq.m. bungalow	Masunurin Ext., Lot 65, Blk 2, DDF Village, Mandug Davao City	168,200.00
21	157 sq.m. TCT No. T-332238 w/ poorly maintained 60.00 sq.m. bungalow	Masunurin Ext., Lot 90, Blk 2, DDF Village, Mandug Davao City	148,200.00
22	192 sq.m. TCT No. T-317300 w/ fairly maintained 46.38 sq.m. bungalow	#156 Carnation St., Lot 3095-B-5-B-2-B-10-D, Donnasville Subd., Pampanga, Davao City	345,500.00
23	157 sq.m. TCT No. T-330321 w/ poorly maintained 46.50 sq.m. bungalow	#74 Lanzones St., Lot 22, Blk 7 DA Pampanga Homes Pampanga, Davao City	290,700.00
24	150 sq.m. TCT No. T-326040 w/ poorly maintained 46.60 sq.m. bungalow	#204 Galaxy St., Blk 5, Lot 8 Victoria Hghts Subd., Mamay Davao City	288,000.00
25	150 sq.m. TCT No. T-347093 w/ poorly maintained 51.18 sq.m. bungalow	#287 Catleya St., Lot 27, Blk 4 Landmark Subd. III, Sasa, Davao City	238,400.00
26	261 sq.m. TCT No. T-347101 w/ poorly maintained 60.00 sq.m. bungalow	858-A Marfori Ave., Blk 4, Lot 29 DDF Village, Mandug, Davao City	299,100.00
27	154 sq.m. TCT No. T-347102 w/ fairly maintained 60.00 sq.m. bungalow	Maki-isa Ext., Blk 2, Lot 89 DDF Village, Mandug Davao City	144,300.00
28	187 sq.m. TCT No. T-347103 w/ poorly maintained 60.00 sq.m. bungalow	Angelfish St., Blk 3, Lot 54 DDF Village, Mandug Davao City	152,800.00
29	150 sq.m. TCT No. T-337427 w/ poorly maintained 42.77 sq.m. bungalow	#129 Manga Avenue, Lot 15 Blk 11, Sto. Domingo Vill. 1 Pampanga, Davao City	264,700.00
30	150 sq.m. TCT No. T-347099 w/ poorly maintained 60.00 sq.m. bungalow	Masunurin St., Blk 3, Lot 29 DDF Village, Mandug Davao City	148,300.00
31	166 sq.m. TCT No. T-358992 w/ fairly maintained 46.60 sq.m. bungalow	#146 Gold & Diamond Sts. Lot 27, Blk 2, Landmark Subd. 1, Sasa, Davao City	279,300.00
32	240 sq.m. TCT No. T-337408 w/ poorly maintained 60.00 sq.m. bungalow	#914-A Mandug Main Road Blk 1, Lot 6, DDF Village Mandug, Davao City	232,100.00
33	154 sq.m. TCT No. T-337407 w/ fairly maintained 60.00 sq.m. bungalow	Masunurin St., Blk 3, Lot 27 DDF Village, Mandug Davao City	211,200.00
34	170 sq.m. TCT No. T-337414 w/ poorly maintained 70.09 sq.m. bungalow	Camagong St., Lot 22, Blk 1 Poly Subdivision, Matina Aplaya, Davao City	429,400.00
35	150 sq.m. TCT No. T-347098 w/ poorly maintained 46.60 sq.m. bungalow	#014 Pearl St., Lot 13, Blk 3 Landmark Subd. 1, Sasa Davao City	244,700.00
36	180 sq.m. TCT No. T-337434 w/ poorly maintained 50.24 sq.m. bungalow	#26 Mountain Dew St., Lot 2-B-1-A-1-D-4-B-3-B-5, Dumoy Toril, Davao City	214,200.00
37	150 sq.m. TCT No. T-326051 w/ poorly maintained 46.60 sq.m. bungalow	#211 Mars St., Lot 11, Blk 5 Victoria Hghts. Subd, Mamay Davao City	312,000.00
38	150 sq.m. TCT No. T-326974 w/ fairly maintained 70.17 sq.m. bungalow	#121 Woodpecker St., Lot 3 Blk 4, Dona Pilar Village, Sasa Davao City	304,500.00
39	151 sq.m. TCT No. T-289728 w/ fairly maintained 47.70 sq.m. bungalow	#342 Rambutan St., Lot 2, Blk 4 Sto. Domingo Vill. 2, Sasa, Davao City	288,900.00
40	148 sq.m. TCT No. T-347097 w/ poorly maintained 40.00 sq.m. bungalow	Maki-isa St., Blk 3, Lot 2 DDF Village, Mandug Davao City	112,400.00
41	150 sq.m. TCT No. T-337421 w/ fairly maintained 42.73 sq.m. bungalow	#42 Dama de Noche St., Lot 13, Blk 3, Landmark Subd. III, Sasa, Davao City	257,100.00
42	150 sq.m. TCT No. T-339635 w/ fairly maintained 51.78 sq.m. bungalow	#208 Rosal St., Lot 12, Blk 2 Landmark Subd. 3, Sasa Davao City	268,100.00
43	196 sq.m. TCT No. T-347075 w/ poorly maintained 60.00 sq.m. bungalow	Matalino St., Blk 2, Lot 31 DDF Village, Mandug Davao City	176,200.00
44	150 sq.m. TCT No. T-340369 w/ poorly maintained 44.55 sq.m. bungalow	#80 Oriole St., Lot 8, Blk 5 Dona Pilar Village, Sasa Davao City	239,500.00
45	150 sq.m. TCT No. T-339631 w/ well maintained 53.10 sq.m. bungalow	#11 Narra St., Lot 878-D-17-A-1-H Reldo Village, Puan Davao City	370,900.00
46	163 sq.m. TCT No. T-339629 w/ poorly maintained 50.51 sq.m. bungalow	#18 Molave/Narra Sts., Lot 14 Blk 3, Dona Pilar Village, Sasa Davao City	292,200.00
47	150 sq.m. TCT No. T-339623 w/ poorly maintained 85.35 sq.m. bungalow	#25 Diego Silang St., Lot 12 Blk 4 Sto. Domingo Subd. 1 Pampanga, Davao City	333,100.00
48	177 sq.m. TCT No. T-339624 w/ poorly maintained 60.00 sq.m. bungalow	Lanzones St., Blk 9, Lot 273 DDF Village, Mandug Davao City	155,900.00
49	222 sq.m. TCT No. T-382231 w/ fairly maintained 60.62 sq.m. bungalow	Corner Daisy & Sunflower Sts. Lot 2, Blk 4, Landmark Subd. 3 Sasa, Davao City	356,400.00
50	150 sq.m. TCT No. T-339993 w/ poorly maintained 48.33 sq.m. bungalow	#092 Ruby St., Lot 9, Blk 3 Landmark Subd. I, Sasa Davao City	236,100.00
51	212 sq.m. TCT No. T-329250 w/ poorly maintained 47.33 sq.m. bungalow	#5917 Cashew St., Lot 17 Blk 9, Sto. Domingo Vill. 2 Pampanga, Davao City	331,600.00
52	150 sq.m. TCT No. T-342127 w/ poorly maintained 80.26 sq.m. bungalow	#192 Quezon St., Lot 5, Blk 15 Sto. Domingo Vill. 1, Pampanga, Davao City	322,100.00
53	150 sq.m. TCT No. T-286535 w/ poorly maintained 52.57 sq.m. bungalow	Lot 3, Blk 9 Bombil St Dona Pilar Village, Ph 7, Sasa Davao City	302,800.00
54	175 sq.m. TCT No. T-346321 w/ poorly maintained 57.10 sq.m. bungalow	#23 Venus St., Lot 3, Blk 4 Victoria Hghts Subd., Mamay Davao City	364,000.00
55	219 sq.m. TCT No. T-329251 w/ poorly maintained 46.50 sq.m. bungalow	#86 Leo St., Lot 2-C Davao Housing Subd., Toril Davao City	319,900.00
56	150 sq.m. TCT No. T-329287 w/ well maintained 75.71sq.m. bungalow	Lot 2, Block 6, Dona Pilar Vill. Sasa, Davao City	624,700.00
57	150 sq.m. TCT No. T-329255 w/ poorly maintained 46.60 sq.m. bungalow	#181 Magsaysay St., Lot 3 Blk 3, Sto. Domingo Vill. 1 Pampanga, Davao City	252,100.00
58	150 sq.m. TCT No. T-285715 w/ fairly maintained 82.93 sq.m. bungalow	Lot 8, Blk 11, # 12 Jericho St., St. Michael Vill. 1, Maa Davao City	398,200.00
59	154 sq.m. TCT No. T-342126 w/ poorly maintained 57.69 sq.m. bungalow	#073 Garnet & Sapphire Sts. Lot 1, Blk 2, Landmark Subd. 1 Sasa, Davao City	294,500.00
60	213 sq.m. TCT No. T-329280 w/ poorly maintained 61.38 sq.m. bungalow	#760-A Visayan Drive, Blk 16 Lot 14, DDF Village, Mandug Davao City	166,600.00
61	156 sq.m. TCT No. T-329288 w/ poorly maintained 50.45 sq.m. bungalow	#25 Lawaan St., Lot 1, Blk 3 Dona Pilar Vill., Sasa Davao City	271,400.00
62	150 sq.m. TCT No. T-342125 w/ poorly maintained 37.35 sq.m. bungalow	#195 Daisy St., Lot 1, Blk 1 Landmark Village 3, Sasa Davao City	208,100.00
63	200 sq.m. TCT No. T-347080 w/ poorly maintained 89.83 sq.m. bungalow	Talisay St., Blk 4, Lot 104 DDF Village, Mandug Davao City	186,100.00
64	150 sq.m. TCT No. T-286531 w/ poorly maintained 46.60 sq.m. bungalow	#197 Quirino St., Lot 4, Blk 1 Sto. Domingo Vill. 1 Pampanga, Davao City	242,700.00
65	183 sq.m. TCT No. T-352527 w/ poorly maintained 60.00 sq.m. bungalow	Mahogany St., Lot 1, Blk 1 DDF Village, Mandug Davao City	174,900.00
66	150 sq.m. TCT No. T-285720 w/ poorly maintained 47.70 sq.m. bungalow	#564 Dalanghita St., Lot 4, Blk 6, Landmark Subd. I, Sasa Davao City	273,300.00
67	151 sq.m. TCT No. T-352528 w/ poorly maintained 43.15 sq.m. bungalow	#601 Amethyst St., Lot 1 Blk 6, San Juan Village, Sasa Davao City	250,400.00
68	178 sq.m. TCT No. T-286530 w/ poorly maintained 46.60 sq.m. bungalow	#113 Jacinto St., Lot 2, Blk 9 Sto. Domingo Vill. 1, Pamp. Davao City	285,400.00
69	150 sq.m. TCT No. T-317294 w/ poorly maintained 42.77 sq.m. bungalow	#81 Yakal St., Lot 4-C-3-C-7 Dona Pilar Village, Sasa Davao City	263,300.00
70	150 sq.m. TCT No. T-352531 w/ fairly maintained 48.33 sq.m. bungalow	#121 Azucena St., Lot 10 Blk 2, Landmark Subd. 3 Sasa, Davao City	290,500.00
71	155 sq.m. TCT No. T-329290 w/ poorly maintained 53.34 sq.m. bungalow	Lot 3, Blk 6, # 12 Molave St., Dona Pilar Vill., Sasa Davao City	277,300.00
72	189 sq.m. TCT No. T-328373 w/ fairly maintained 46.60 sq.m. bungalow	#29 Narra St., Lot 15, Blk 1 Lea Subd., Mamay Davao City	359,800.00
73	150 sq.m. TCT No. T-340375 w/ fairly maintained 42.77 sq.m. bungalow	#126 Mahogany St., Lot 4-C-3-C-5, Dona Pilar Village, Sasa Davao City	255,100.00
74	217 sq.m. TCT No. T-352534 w/ poorly maintained 43.50 sq.m. bungalow	#129 Scorpio St, Blk 2, Lot 7 Davao Housing Subd., Toril Davao City	295,200.00
75	150 sq.m. TCT No. T-347090 w/ fairly maintained 42.00 sq.m. bungalow	#6 Libby Road, Lot 878-D-17-A-2-D Reldo Village, Puan Davao City	244,200.00
76	150 sq.m. TCT No. T-342122 w/ poorly maintained 42.77 sq.m. bungalow	#69 Ipil Ipil St., Lot 4-C-3-C-10-F Dona Pilar Village, Sasa Davao City	245,900.00
77	150 sq.m. TCT No. T-288768 w/ poorly maintained 52.36 sq.m. bungalow	Lot 11, Blk 2, Dona Pilar Vill. Ph 7, Sasa, Davao City	288,000.00
78	150 sq.m. TCT No. T-285753 w/ poorly maintained 58.64 sq.m. bungalow	#85 Yakal St., Lot 4-C-3-C-5 Dona Pilar Village, Sasa Davao City	275,900.00
79	150 sq.m. TCT No. T-339628 w/ poorly maintained 42.77 sq.m. bungalow	#131 Manga St., Lot 23, Blk 11 Sto. Domingo Vill. 1, Pampanga Davao City	261,700.00
80	150 sq.m. TCT No. T-330249 w/ fairly maintained 66.84 sq.m. bungalow	#207 Uranus St., Blk 6, Lot 14 Victoria Hgts. Subd., Mamay Davao City	374,300.00
81	150 sq.m. TCT No. T-340381 w/ fairly maintained 56.05 sq.m. bungalow	Lot 8, Blk 2, # 21 Dama de Noche St., Landmark Subd. 3 Sasa, Davao City	301,600.00
82	150 sq.m. TCT No. T-285703 w/ poorly maintained 42.77 sq.m. bungalow	#71 Yakal St. Lot 4-C-3-C-10-C Dona Pilar Subd., Ph 5 Sasa, Davao City	257,200.00
83	160 sq.m. TCT No. T-285696 w/ poorly maintained 46.60 sq.m. bungalow	#162 Venus St., Blk 3, Lot 4 Victoria Hgts. Subd., Mamay Davao City	311,200.00
84	150 sq.m. TCT No. T-285713 w/ poorly maintained 44.98 sq.m. bungalow	#455 Dalanghita St, Lot 5, Blk 5 Sto. Domingo Vill. 2, Pampanga Davao City	247,800.00
85	159 sq.m. TCT No. T-342105 w/ poorly maintained 37.35 sq.m. bungalow	#128 Sunflower-Gumamela Sts. Lot 2, Blk 4, Landmark Subd. 3 Sasa, Davao City	217,400.00
86	300 sq.m. TCT No. T-385290 w/ poorly maintained 65.32 sq.m. bungalow	Lot 3-B-1-M, Sixto Francisco Subd., Calinan, Davao City	276,200.00
87	150 sq.m. TCT No. T-342109 w/ poorly maintained 52.54 sq.m. bungalow	#596 Chico St., Lot 6, Blk 9 Sto. Domingo Vill. 2, Pampanga Davao City	270,800.00
88	200 sq.m. TCT No. T-342111 w/ poorly maintained 40.00 sq.m. bungalow	#535-A Dona Ana St., Blk 2 Lot 4, DDF Village, Mandug Davao City	138,100.00
89	150 sq.m. TCT No. T-329278 w/ fairly maintained 75.68 sq.m. bungalow	#114 Hornbill St., Lot 2, Blk 1 Dona Pilar Village, Sasa Davao City	307,400.00
90	150 sq.m. TCT No. T-320764 w/ poorly maintained 90.15 sq.m. bungalow	#327 Rambutan St., Lot 1, Blk 2 Sto. Domingo Vill. 2, Sasa, Davao City	334,100.00
91	200 sq.m. TCT No. T-352542 w/ fairly maintained 85.27 sq.m.	Lot 1-G-1-N Greenland Vill. Dumoy, Davao City	353,200.00
92	151 sq.m. TCT No. T-329275 w/ poorly maintained 42.77 sq.m. bungalow	Lot 27, Blk 4,#95 Yakal/Narra Sts., Dona Pilar Vill, Sasa Davao City	244,600.00
93	205 sq.m. TCT No. T-329266 w/ fairly maintained 76.60 sq.m. bungalow	Blk 4, Lot 19, Victoria Hghts Subd., Mamay, Davao City	463,400.00
94	200 sq.m. TCT No. T-380403 w/ poorly maintained 51.00 sq.m. bungalow	#280 Everest St., Lot 557-C-3-C3-D-4-C, Pampanga Exec.Homes, Pampanga, Davao City	410,000.00
95	150 sq.m. TCT No. T-342131 w/ fairly maintained 72.87 sq.m. bungalow	#071 Garnet St., Lot 3 Blk 2, Landmark Subd. 1 Sasa, Davao City	307,400.00
96	150 sq.m. TCT No. T-342103 w/ well maintained 69.40 sq.m. bungalow	#124 Sunflower St., Lot 4, Blk 5 Alpha Homes, Matina Aplaya, Davao City	593,100.00
97	150 sq.m. TCT No. T-316800 w/ poorly maintained 48.30 sq.m. bungalow	#445 Siniguelas St., Lot 5, Blk 4 Sto. Domingo Vill. 2, Pampanga Davao City	262,300.00
PANABO CITY			
98	216 sq.m. TCT No. T-171976 w/ fairly maintained 39.90 sq.m. bungalow	#6894 Arguelles Subd., Lot 2 Blk 6, New Visayas Panabo City	189,900.00
99	216 sq.m. TCT No. T-169851 w/ fairly maintained 46.71sq.m. bungalow	#1858 Camia St., Lot 324-F-12-G, Medalla Subd., Cagangohan, Panabo City	202,000.00
100	250 sq.m. TCT No. T-193553 w/ poorly maintained 41.09 sq.m. bungalow	#2695 Lorsing Subd., Lot 8 Blk 3, San Vicente. Panabo City	166,000.00
101	202 sq.m. TCT No. T-191368 w/ fairly maintained 81.11 sq.m. bungalow	#6857 Arguelles Subd., Lot 14 Blk 1, New Visayas Panabo City	257,100.00
102	240 sq.m. TCT No. T-194093 w/ poorly maintained 43.10 sq.m. bungalow	#1867 Medalla Subd., Lot 324-F-9, Cagangohan Panabo City	215,300.00
103	240 sq.m. TCT No. T-194092 w/ fairly maintained 46.71 sq.m. bungalow	#1875 Medalla Subd., Lot 324-F-2, Cagangohan Panabo City	202,300.00
104	240 sq.m. TCT No. T-194097 w/ fairly maintained 54.20 sq.m. bungalow	#1851, Lot 324-F-12-A Medalla Subd, Cagangohan Panabo City	250,600.00
105	250 sq.m. TCT No. T-170980 w/ well maintained 93.55 sq.m. bungalow	#7641 Gamao Subd., Lot 165-F-9 San Francisco, Panabo City	414,300.00
106	264 sq.m. TCT No. T-172207 w/ poorly maintained 48.00 sq.m. bungalow	#5009/084 Yakal St., Lot 5-E, Lilia Homes, New Visayas, Panabo City	216,700.00
107	265 sq.m. TCT No. T-172208 w/ poorly maintained 48.00 sq.m. bungalow	#5007/083 Lilia Homes, Lot 5-D New Visayas, Panabo City	211,800.00
108	210 sq.m. TCT No. T-171951 w/ fairly maintained 85.66 sq.m. bungalow	#7777 Gamao Subd., Lot 3 Blk 12, San Francisco Panabo City	236,600.00
TAGUM CITY			
109	180 sq.m. TCT No. T-188926 w/ poorly maintained 43.55 sq.m. bungalow	#814 Lot D-7-C-5-E-15 Union Village, Mankilam Tagum City	166,200.00
110	180 sq.m. TCT No. T-191362 w/ poorly maintained 50.05 sq.m. bungalow	#992 Lot 11, Blk 2 Union Village, Mankilam Tagum City	195,100.00
111	248 sq.m. TCT No. T-191363 w/ poorly maintained 49.80 sq.m. bungalow	Lot 03, Blk 2 Union Village, Mankilam Tagum City	233,500.00
112	180sq.m. TCT No. T-191361 w/ poorly maintained 43.55 sq.m. bungalow	#760 Lot D-7-C-5-B-6 Union Village, Mankilam Tagum City	170,600.00
113	180 sq.m. TCT No. T-169660 w/ poorly maintained 49.80 sq.m. bungalow	Lot 08, Blk 5 Union Village, Mankilam Tagum City	196,600.00
114	220 sq.m. TCT No. T-169850 w/ fairly maintained 49.80 sq.m. bungalow	#999 Lot 04, Blk 2 Union Village, Mankilam Tagum City	235,900.00
115	200 sq.m. TCT No. T-172209 w/ poorly maintained 69.98 sq.m. bungalow	#937 Lot D-7-C-5-G-7-H Union Village, Mankilam Tagum City	266,000.00

Complete description of the properties including Bidding Forms and Instruction to Bidders are available at the Housing and Asset Management Section, 2nd Floor, SSS Building, J.P. Laurel Avenue, Bajada, Davao City. Please contact Mrs. Rosalinda T. Ongkiko at Tel. Nos. 221-3493 / 221-3575 / 221-3536 Locals 207, 209 and 210.

Sealed bids should be dropped at the Bid Box located at the Lobby, 2nd Floor, SSS Building, J.P. Laurel Avenue, Bajada, Davao City from 8:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. on April 20, 2006. The bids should be addressed to Acquired Assets Disposal Committee, Social Security System, East Avenue, Quezon City.

Bidder's Deposit, equivalent to at least 30% (if bidder is the former owner, their spouse, parents or children) or 10% (if bidder does not fall on the preceding category) of the bid price in cash (Philippine money/U.S. dollars) or in Certified Manager's Check in favor of SSS, must be enclosed with sealed envelope. Any other form or draft purportedly as manner of payment is not acceptable. The bidder must also sign the sealed envelop across its flap. A sealed bid without the bidder's bond will not be entertained.

The award shall be made to the bidder who makes the most advantageous offer to the SSS. As a rule, cash bids shall be preferred over installment bids. An installment bid shall, however be considered as more advantageous if the installment bid is greater by at least 20% over a cash bid. In case of installment bids, the bid with the shortest payment period shall be preferred unless the difference in the bids is greater by at least 20%. In which case the bid with the longer payment period shall be considered most advantageous to the SSS.

The sale of the properties shall be "As Is, Where Is." The winning bidder shall undertake the responsibility to acquire and maintain peaceful possession and enjoyment of the property without seeking the assistance of the SSS.

After deducting the bid deposit from the Bid Price, the balance shall be payable either in cash within 30 days or amortized up to a maximum of 120 months at prevailing interest rate. If bidder opts to amortize, proof of income (ITR, business permit or Certificate of Employment and Compensation) shall be among the documents for submission on bidding date. Upon approval of the sale, the buyer shall issue twelve (12) PDCs covering the first year of amortization and the same number of checks for each succeeding years. Actual expenses or advances made by SSS for foreclosure and consolidation of title shall be added to purchase price of the former owner or his successor-in-interest.

The System reserves the right to reject any or all bids, or to waive defect found therein.

All awards shall be subject to the approval of SSS President & CEO and confirmation of the Social Security Commission whose decision shall be final and binding on all concerned.

AVP MARIANO PABLO S. TOLENTINO
Chairperson
Acquired Assets Disposal Committee

(PDI – March 24, 2006)

GOLDILOCKS bakeshop's new look

Consumers ...

From page B2-4

Uy says in an interview that eye-catching window and store-front displays get customers' attention and bring them through the door.

"Good visual merchandising throughout Abea keeps customers interested and walks them through an intuitive and natural shopping path through the store so they don't miss out on any. home furnishing discoveries," Uy says.

Abea invested in market research, analysis and creativity to come up with the look in its three showrooms, done in partnership with SB Koncept, its strategic partner-supplier that has set up multiple showrooms in over 40 countries.

The effort has been paying off as customers have been coming to the store even if Abea was launched only a little over a year ago.

Abea offers a wide range of European and Asian-styled furnishings and accessories and these are arranged in full room set-ups for the customers to picture how the furniture would look in their home.

Abea does not follow trends or styles in visual merchandising. Rather, it sticks to the basic principles of visual merchandising.

For Abea design manager, Architect Nap Mina, principles revolve around the belief that visual presentation of merchandise must excite the customer.

"Our store concept is built around our target customer, so here at Abea, we will never stop trying to innovate and improve our offers and services to better delight our customers," Uy says, "As customer tastes and expectations evolve, so will we."

Shakey's

Pizza chain Shakey's has been in the Philippines for more than 30 years, and significant changes have been put in place since 1994 to give the stores a younger, fresher look.

Sales have picked up since then and the pizza chain's general manager attributed it to two factors: the classic thin crust pizza and unique interiors, which include wooden signs and windows allowing people to see how pizza is made.

The changes entailed expenses but Shakey's says these were needed to bring the pizza chain up to the next level, including those in the area of visual merchandising and point of purchase displays.

"Guests appreciate it when the overall look and feel of the restaurant complements in every aspect," says Meggie Jose, Shakeys marketing director. "Not only do guests see what products or promotions you have through the posters or banners in the restaurants but through the wall murals which show product shots and the personality of the brand."

Jose says Shakey's developed its new look based on the customers' comments, focus group discussions and from looking at competitors and other retail outlets.

For the new look, Shakey's brought back certain furniture and fixtures unique to the brand, such as stain glass windows and classic furniture.

In terms of POP materials, Shakey's used posters, flyers and banners to support new products or promotions.

She says gone are the days when restaurants just feature the food to get people to come into the store. These days, the need to provide the right ambience has never been more important.

Does your ...

From page B2-1

In more recent years, the billboard's role in creating awareness and purchase intent has been recognized. A number of factors have fueled this growth:

1. Dramatic increases in vehicle ownership and the increasingly mobile lifestyle of individuals.
2. Women migrating from in-home to out-of-home. Women as primary buying influencers in the past were easier to reach. This changed as more and more women began to work and marketers had to think of ways to reach them outside their homes.
3. The medium's capability to reach targeted consumers while they travel to their daily destinations.
4. The medium's flexibility to reach specific target markets around their lifestyle e.g. billboards mounted close to the workplace, homes and neighborhoods, shopping districts, schools, etc.
5. Technological improvements in the production of large format signs today do justice to the product or service features.

How effective are billboards

A consumer perception study mounted by the Starcom Research in 2000 revealed the following:

1. Size and uniqueness of billboards drive memorability. Likewise, simple, concise messages in smaller billboard formats.
2. People like billboards that entertain.
3. People expect billboards to change every so often, specially for high-recognition brands.
4. The perception that everyone hates out-of-home advertising is unfounded.
5. Transit riders enjoy the entertainment and distraction of billboard messages more than rush hour traffic.

An FBCRS usage, attitude and image survey conducted in 2003 complemented the Starcom research. The findings revealed:

1. A billboard's unique design is an attribute that drives awareness and recall of advertising.
2. Use of bright, cheerful colors is preferred.
3. People like billboards in general as revealed by 96 percent of the respondents who gave overall positive comments.

Successful billboard attributes

While billboards are enjoying a surge in media usage, marketers are challenged to present their billboards in ways that rise above the clutter. Some of the attributes that marketers can look into include the following as culled from a 2000 Sensory Logic Creative Test mounted in late 2000:

1. Stopping power. Successful billboards must have excellent stopping power. These include among others, the use of strong color contrasts between foreground and background elements; use of colors with deep saturation; avoidance of cluttered or very austere formats and use of a story line with dramatic tension or suspense to engage viewer interest.
2. Readability. These include making the picture image big, alive and simple; making the message clear; developing copy that is short yet full of punch and creating a seamless design with simple and clear texts and fonts.
3. Message clarity. Avoiding excessive brain teasing, ability to relate messages to familiar experiences and situations and emphasis on the product as hero or helper are dimensions of message clarity.
4. Memorability. These include the use of a powerful anchor visual element and images that hinge on real-life experiences.

Where to billboards?

Technology, highly targeted markets, new and emergent lifestyles are likely to lead to newer, more exciting billboards and out of home formats. Some exciting executions include beautifully designed wall murals and building shrink-wraps, live billboards, storefront scaffoldings and street furniture, among others.

The writer is a professor of Marketing Management and Brand Management at the De La Salle Professional Schools Graduate School of Business and is chief learning officer of Marketing Knowledge Series Training and Consultancy. Feedback at kdeasis@skyinet.net

It started wtih pizza weekends in NY

PIZZA place was named after Fernandez's youngest son Marky

ARTURO and Lita Fernandez, founders of Di'Mark's Pizza with their brood in the '50s.

THE LEGACY STARTED OUT AS A neighborhood affair. Back in New York during the '50s, Arturo and Lita Fernandez would get together with their Italian neighbors on weekends. The regular scene then was Arturo kneading the pizza dough and Lita preparing the rich tomato sauce. The delightful smell of the couple's pizza would invite not just their brood of children, but also many of the neighborhood's kids. The Fernandezes became as equally known as their pies.

When the Fernandez family finally moved back to Manila, the same tradition was practiced every weekend. The couple would tirelessly make pizza for their close relatives and friends, who would not miss any gathering at the Fernandez residence. Eventually these relatives and friends encouraged the couple to put up a pizza house. On April 1, 1957, at the Fernandez family's residential garden on Menlo Road, Pasay City, Di' Mark's Garden was formally opened. As one of the pioneers of the pizza industry in the country, Di'Mark's was named after the Fernandez family's youngest son Marky.

The couple started out with borrowed tables and chairs. The rest is history.

Since then, Di' Mark's pizza garden was not just known during Saturday eat-outs but for everyday dining as well. It became the favorite place of their grandparents, who lived to concoct various original home-cooked pizzas.

Fast forward to present

The business was handed on by the couple to their children and now grandchildren. Leading the pack are Nina Fernandez-Assad and husband Jay, together with their own children. Di' Mark's legacy continues. They take pride in serving grandma Lita's tasty tomato sauce cooked in olive oil, garlic, onions, and imported spices, and grandpa Arturo's dough, made in combo of thick and thin crust, not too bready on top, crispy at the bottom.

According to Nina, old patrons could attest that Di' Mark's pizza hasn't changed at all. Actually, they became even better. From the very first original pizza recipe called "Menlo special," baked with grated yellow and native cheese (*kesong puti*) instead of mozzarella, Di' Mark's came up with other distinctly delicious pizzas. Since Arturo worked in a sausage factory in Brooklyn, Di' Mark's uses home-made Italian sausages, together with mushrooms and green pepper, to make the Arturo special. And because Nina's older brother loves pizza and taco, they thought of putting chili beef, chopped onions, tomatoes, shredded cheese and crispy lettuce on pizza crust instead of on taco shells. Thus, was born the Taco pizza.

Two of Di'Mark's best sellers are the pizza Pro and Mad scramble pizza. The former is topped with anchovies, mushrooms and pepperoni. On the other hand, you'll get heavy with the latter's toppings: Italian sausages, pepperoni, mushrooms, green peppers, onions, garlic, black and green olives , chicken and tomatoes.

For health conscious and veggie lovers, they also have vegetarian pizza with mushrooms, green and black olives, green pepper, onions, garlic and tomatoes. If ever you are craving for more, Di' Mark's is the right place because they serve the " Big ZZ," literally means ZZ toppings on one pizza.

Also, Di' Mark's will fulfill your pizza fantasy. You can create your own pizza, choosing toppings that you prefer. Not only that, Di' Mark's pizzas are complemented with a good choice of yummy appetizers, mouth watering soups, delectable pastas, tasty main dishes and even sinful desserts.

The almost half-a-century-old pizza place continues to dish out its unique pizza flavors. From Pasay Road, it moved to Makati Avenue. Today, Di' Mark's is at the third level of Greenbelt 3, Makati City and has branches in Tomas Morato, Wack-Wack and Commonwealth areas.

Philam Plans Sales: Serving the Filipinos

By Joel Nigos

MORE AND MORE FILIPINOS seek jobs abroad. Recent data from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) showed that Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) grew by 5.2% totaling to 981,000 OFWs in 2005. Some however, still remain optimistic and refuse to give up on having a better tomorrow for their country and their people. Many still believe that hope is within reach and continue to succeed in their chosen fields.

PHILAM Plans SVP and head of Sales and Marketing Roland U. Gaerlan congratulates Eric T. Bautista, one of its ace District Managers.

RONALDO A. Ignacio (center) receives his award as Top Sales Counselor from Philam Plans Chairman Jose L. Cuisia Jr.

PHILAM Pres. & CEO Jesus G. Hofileña awards Concepcion D. Arcena, District Manager Rising Star.

OFW turned top District Manager

Eric Bautista is a Mechanical Engineer by profession. Just like most people who sought greener pastures, he left for Saudi Arabia in 1991 and practiced his line of work in the Middle East. When on vacation, he used to drive his father, Francisco Bautista, a top Philamlife agent, in his client visits. *"Pero habang tumatagal ako sa Saudi lalo akong naho-homesick"* (The longer I stayed in Saudi the more I get homesick), shares Eric so he decided to come back to the Philippines in 1997, for good. In search for a new career, Eric found himself becoming a sales associate for Philam Plans in 1998 after constant prodding from his father. *"Nakita ko kasi yung pasasalamat ng mga tao sa tatay ko kaya para sa akin heartwarming yun,"* (I saw the people's gratitude towards my father and that to me is heartwarming) he shares. *"Naramdaman ko yung tuwa nila dahil para sa kanila naging maayos ang buhay nila ngayon dahil sa plano na kinuha nila"* (I felt their gladness, their lives are now better because of the plans they bought).

> ***"Naramdaman ko yung tuwa nila dahil para sa kanila naging maayos ang buhay nila ngayon dahil sa plano na kinuha nila"***

Eric realizes that as a sales associate of Philam Plans he can now provide for his family without leaving them behind and even help others secure their future through pre-need plans. Now Eric's impressive sales performance gave him the distinction of being among the top District Managers nationwide —following his father's legendary record.

CAROL B. Bautista receives Top Agency Manager Award during Philam Plans Annual Awards from Philam Plans Chairman Jose L. Cuisia Jr.

PHILAM Plans gives recognition to the Telemarketing Group w/ Felly F. Ayate at center.

Knowing people's dreams and the market's needs

Philam Plans No. 1 District Manager Alma Clariño continues to offer Philam Plans products as she sees them as solutions to Filipino's needs. "I usually tell my clients that we have what I call permanent problems in life which need permanent solutions - we all need to send our kids to school, and we'll all grow old," she says, adding that permanent solutions to these problems can be by way of availing pre-need plans.

Wife of former PBA player Boy Clariño, Alma joined Philam Plans in 1995. Her sales career has in fact turned into a family affair with Boy and their two daughters, Anna Cristine and Abegale Courant joining in the more recent years.

"I believe that we're helping Filipino families plan their future. It's something that they do not see now but I know they would appreciate when the time comes." Like most Philam Plans sales associates, Alma found a deeper meaning in her job closing a deal meant a chance to make a difference.

Concepcion Arcena is one of Philam Plans' ace District Managers and believes that success in sales means understanding your target market. It's also necessary, she says, that she is able to get her message through getting a pre-need plan is not an expense. *"Pag inisip kasi nila na dagdag na gastos ito, hindi nila ito isasama. Kaya dapat ituring nila ito na kailangan nila sa buhay para bigyan nila ng pansin,"* (If they see it as an additional expense they won't even think about it. They must consider it as a future need for them to take notice) she explains. As a former teacher, Concepcion understands the need to prepare for the future especially for the children's education, it is this same mission which encouraged her to join the pre-need business in 1991.

> ***"With Philam, not only will their plans return a very good yield but more than that they are assured that they are dealing with a financially stable and trusted company."***

Inspiring a new generation

Carol Bautista, Philam Plans top Agency Manager believes in different strokes for different folks. "There are various things that motivate people," she,says. "They have different needs, and as an Agency Manager I need to know them for me to be able to inspire them." Just like Eric and Alma, she considers selling pre-need plans as a service to people. "This is what I share with my sales associates during trainings, that more than closing a deal, it is important that your clients understand why they're buying these plans and why these are very important," she says.

ALMA C. Clariño receives Top Awards for District Manager (center) with husband Boy Clariño from Philam Plans executives Jose L. Cuisia Jr. (right) and Jesus G. Hofileña (left).

This is maybe what was planted in the mind of Ronald Ignacio, a Sales Counselor under Carol's agency. Ronald was able to top the Sales Counselor's category last year. His background in banks and finances, plus Philam Plans' six-year record of being number one in pension helps him sell these plans to his corporate clients. Providing very good after-sales service is what he believes is the key why he was able to top his category.

The changing times has called for new marketing strategies and sales distribution approaches. Though using a non-traditional distribution channel, Unit Manager Felly Ayate was able to reach out and help people secure their future through telemarketing. For her, properly investing ones hard-earned money especially for those who have enough savings is an important decision he has to make in life. "This is where the name Philam plays a big part," she says. "With Philam, not only will their plans return a very good yield but more than that they are assured that they are dealing with a financially stable and trusted company." So whether they will use the money for their children's schooling, for their retirement or for any other purpose, they are more than guaranteed that they will get their money when it matures."

Providing Filipinos better careers and a secure future

For Eric, Alma, Carol, Ronald, Concepcion and Felly, every deal is an opportunity to reach out to the public and educate them of the benefits of pre-need plans—a philosophy in line with Philam Plans' mission of saving dreams, memories and children's future.

Philam Plans at present has more than 20,000 sales associates nationwide, providing job opportunities to more and more Filipinos. Its sales associates undergo extensive training to equip them with the necessary skills and knowledge to become effective financial planners. Further, it provides career advancement as sales associates can become Unit Managers, District Managers or Agency Managers. They are also amply rewarded with travel incentives, scholarships on top of the cash rewards that go with closing a deal.

Philam Plans has been the No. 1 pre-need company in the last four years with over 500,000 planholders or one-third of the total pre-need market. Philam Plans also has the largest and most liquid trust fund among pre-need companies, enough to cover the P600 million projected maturing benefits in 2006 and the rest of its planholder obligations until 2013. Backed by its mother company, Philamlife, the most trusted name in life insurance for the past 60 years and American International Group (AIG), the world's leading insurance and financial services organization, Philam Plans continues to enjoy the growing public trust and confidence of Filipino families. ***With Grace Del Rosario***

For comments and inquiries please email author at jnigos@inquirer.com.ph or philamplans@aig.com

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Consumers do judge a store by its looks

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

WHOEVER SAID YOU CAN NOT JUDGE A book by its cover was surely not referring to retail stores.

How could he, when in the business of selling products or services, first impressions could make or break a business?

Thus, serious retailers bent on keeping competition at bay invest in research, hire technical experts and experiment with styles and colors to make their stores and products look good.

Russ Alfonso, owner of RS Concepts, one of the biggest providers of visuals and POP (point of purchase) displays in the country, tells the INQUIRER that retail outlets now appreciate how having the right visuals and displays can set them apart from other stores.

He stresses that since buyers do not have a lot of time on their hands and are bombarded with different images when they walk through a mall or go through the aisles of a grocery, they need some visual stimuli for them to train their eyes on a particular store or item.

POP displays that move, he says, and mini video clips shown on LCD screens are particularly effective because movement always attracts attention.

He expects more companies to install these "wobblers" and LCD screens as the cost of these displays drop closer to the level of the static displays.

Colors also have an effect with studies showing that "hot" colors like orange and yellow attract more attention than "cold" colors like green.

"There's a science to all this," he says, "but at the end, there is really only so much that visuals can do. There is something to be said about giving incentives."

Goldilocks

Leading bakeshop and food outlet Goldilocks has undergone many changes throughout 40 years in the business because it has always believed in putting its stores and products under the best light possible.

This is because it takes less than 10 seconds for companies such as Goldilocks to convert browsers into buyers.

Pinky Yee, head of marketing of Goldilocks, refers to the 10 seconds as the "first moment of truth."

"The first moment of truth is mainly visual. It is most likely that your target market will see your establishment or product before they hear, smell or taste it," Yee says. "Therefore, your visual merchandising and point of purchase displays must have a well-deliberated structure to attract your target audience and convey your brand identity."

Yee explains that in marketing, "notice to trial" are three very important and related words that companies must keep in mind to attract new customers.

For Goldilocks, Yee says there have been major changes in the logo, color schemes and even the uniforms of the in-store staff—all designed to make Goldilocks more attractive to the public.

Some of these changes include the installation of new menu boards in stores with food visuals, in favor of displaying the actual food items.

This was prompted by findings that said actual food displays are not an important factor in a customer's decision to eat in the store.

Goldilocks also introduced a self-service bakeshop versus the "behind the counter" approach, allowing customers to handle Goldilocks products before buying.

Abea

Like Goldilocks, furniture chain Abea believes in the importance of creating a certain "look" to attract buyers.

Abea business development manager Jason

CONSUMERS/ B2-3

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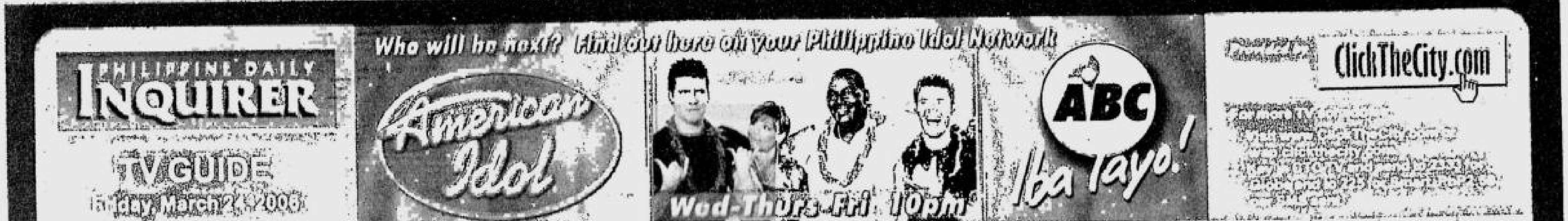

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
American Idol
Who will be next? Find out here on your Philippine Idol Network
Wed-Thurs-Fri 10pm
ABC
Iba Tayo!
ClickTheCity.com

TV GUIDE
Friday, March 24, 2006

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5			WNCAA (Rerun)		PBA				Sentro	PBA					Big News	Gudtaym		Real Stories	Insider
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Little Amy	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Outstanding Twins	TV Patrol World		Gulong Ng Palad	Sa Piling Mo	Princess Lulu	Pinoy Big Brother					
AXN		Sports Disaster V		The Contender Best of Fight Scenes Special		Worlds Apart		Cold Squad		Amazon		WRC 2006: Rally XS	E Buzz	Half Past Dead				The Contender Special East Coast Pride	
Cartoon Network	Johnny Bravo	Dexter's Laboratory	Tom & Jerry Show		Baby Looney Tunes	Codename Kids Next Door	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	Power Rangers Wild Force	The Gransazers	Yu-Gi-Oh Double Duel		Powerpuff Girls		Mucha Lucha!	Duck Dodgers	Justice League	Samurai Jack
Cinema One		Banta Ng Kahapon				The Flor Contemplacion Story				Videoke King				Ang Utol Kong Hoodlum				Shutter	
Cinemax	Young at Heart				Sweet Poison			Groundhog Day (6:15 PM)				Two For Texas			Batman (9:35 PM)				Sutragn (11:40PM)
CNN				Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International		World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport
Crime/Suspense		Surface		Law & Order Special Victims Unit		Profiler		Forensic Files	Hollywood Justice	Law & Order		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit/Dominick Dunne's Power, Privilege & Justice		Law & Order: Criminal Content		Crossing Jordan			
Discovery Channel		Extreme Engineering		Rivals		Beyond Tomorrow		More Than Human		Rides		American Chopper		Beyond Tomorrow		Mostly True Stories		Crime Night	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Un-talkative Bunny	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Brandy & Mr. Whiskers		Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Ranger	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN		Pro Billiards '05 Men's World Summit of Pool		Table Tennis '05 Kelonspin	World Snooker Tour Travis Perkins SFinals						Sportscenter Asia	Motorsport Asia	Classic Boxing: Great Fights of the Mid 60's		Classic Boxing: Great Fights of the early 30's		Pro Billiards '05 WPA Doubles 9-Ball C'ship		Sportscenter Asia
ETC		Project Runway		Change of Heart	Elmadeira	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		Joan Of Arcadia		American Dreams 2		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
EWTN	The Word Was Made Flesh	Angelus (3:15 PM)	The Donut Man	Angel Force	Suffering And The Love Of God	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Stations Of The Cross	EWTN Gallery	Super Saints	Life on The Rock Encore		Marriage Works in Christ	Defending Life	Daily Mass (SAP) Live		Angelus (10:15PM)	Holy Spirit In The Church	Father Corapi And The Catechism Of Catholic Church	
Fox News		Hannity & Colmes		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live			
GMA 7	Kung Mamahalin Mo Lang Ako	Now and Forever	First Love Of A Royale Prince		Dragonball Z	Great Teacher Onizuka	Le Robe de Mariage	24 Oras		Extra Challenge	Encantadia	My Name Is Kim Sam Soon		Jewel In The Palace		Bubble Gang			Sakal
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched	Judging Amy/McBride: It's Murder, Madam			Ladies Man	Bewitched	The Nanny	Strong Medicine		Judging Amy		Midsomer Murders, Who Killed Cock Robin			Doc Martin (10:35PM)		Strong Medicine (11:25PM)		
HBO	Hurricane Smith			Hooper			Two Brothers (5:45 PM)				Warnings			The School Of Rock			JFK (10:45PM)		
Hero TV	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	D.I.C.E.	Samurai Deeper Kyo	Gatekeepers	The Wanderers	Combattler V	Gundam Seed	Iron Man 28	Naruto	Mirmo de Pon	Inuyasha	Yu-Gi-Oh	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	D.I.C.E.	Samurai Deeper Kyo	Gundam Seed	Iron Man 28
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Lifestyle		Home Shopping Network		ME TV		PTA Best Of The Philippines		Global Family Series	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV	Primetime Glick	The Late Show David Letterman		Jack In The Box				Megas XLR	Beat The Geeks	Mad TV		That 70s Show	Always Sunny In Philadelphia	The Late Show David Letterman		The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Premium Blend	Reno 911	Insomniac W/ Dave Attell
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Illusions By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Molto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Ming's Quest	Intimate Portrait		Behind The Velvet Ropes	Life & Style		Simply Dine With Andrea Immer	The Great Adventure	Iron Chef America	
MTV Philippines	Seasons; Urbanclub	Lee Ryan: Out of the Blue	MTV Hits		Trippin	Pop Inc		2006 MAA Nominee Specials	MTV Hits			Get Hitch'd	Get Spotted	Diyes		MTV Hits	Trippin	MTV Hits	VH1 Video Collections
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYXILOG	Top 5	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Club MYX	MYX Versions	Urban MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	MYXILOG
National Geographic	Africa From The Ground Up	Explorations Powered By Duracell	Rough Trades	Nat'l Geographic Amazing Moments						Wow!		About Asia		Terrorism Week		Explorations Powered By Duracell	Rough Trades	Animal Cannibals	
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		Teledyaryo Sports Alas.	Diyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sila?	Teledyaryo		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)				Teledyaryo Final Edition				Bantay OCW With Susan K			
Nickelodeon	Chalkzone	Hey Arnold!	SpongeBob SquarePants	My Life As A Teenage Robot	All Grown Up	The Adventures Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd Parents	Drake & Josh	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	All That	All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	Four Eyes	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Adventures Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd Parents	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Dahil Tanging Ikaw				May Sugat Ang Kahapon				Ober Da Bakod 2				Saw (Dubbed In Tagalog)				Elorde Banquet Of Champions
Qtv	Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin		Zenith	The Prince Of Tennis	MMS (My Music Station)		Moms		Love At Aegean Sea	Irene	Mars	Laugh To Laugh: Ang Kulit	Ganda Ng Lola Ko		News On Q	Love Life		Irene	Romance
RPN 9	TV Shopping				Krusada Kontra Krimen		Global Window	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	WWE Smackdown		World Poker		The Ultimate Fighter		Newswatch Now	TV Greats On Friday		
SBN 21				New Life TV Shopping				Winner TV Shopping		SBN Music Video		Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Shepherd's Voice		SBN Music Video	
Solar Sports		Badminton Phil Badminton Open Finals							GWS 11-2006	Sagupaan	NBA Jam	NBA Game: Blazers @ Suns					Sportsdesk	IBF German Open Women's Doubles	
Sports Plus	Gillette World Cup Preview 4	Arena Football: Utah @ Orlando						World Game		Golden Corral 500 Highlights		Nopi Tunervision 4	BD Ukraine	FIFA Preview Series 6	Xotc Xtreme Ep. 08	Inside the PGA	Golf Today	Bay Hill Invitational Highlights	
Star Movies		Shoot To Kill (2:50 PM)			Million Dollar Baby (4:45 PM)					Stuck On You				From Justin To Kelly			Broken Lizard's Club Dread		
Star World	8 Simple Rules	The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		Angel		American Idol		Star News Asia	Seinfeld	American Idol		TNA Wrestling		NYPD Blue		Seinfeld	American Idol
Studio 23	Bewitched	Masked Rider Ryuki				Batman Beyond	Teen Titans	The Batman	Justice League Unlimited	Wazzup Wazzup		Survivor Guatemala		Barkada Nights		News Central	Oprah		Just Shoot Me

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

LIFESTYLE

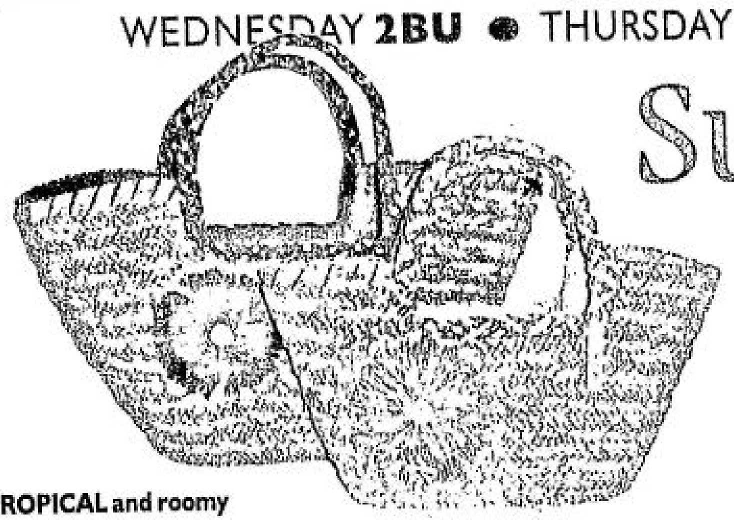
Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

sms feedback: inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart) **or email us at** pr_lifestyle@inquirer

WEDNESDAY **2BU** • THURSDAY **FOOD** • FRIDAY **FASHION & BEAUTY**

MONOI bag and keychain

Summer blooms



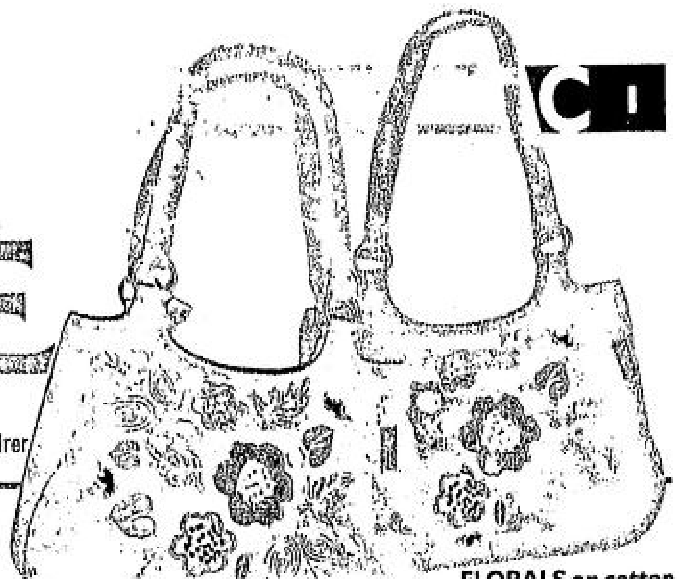
TROPICAL and roomy straw totes in two sizes

FLOWERS ARE ALL ABLOOM FOR SUMMER AND they're blossoming on roomy totes and small bags alike.

Sunny and bright canvas and straw totes in yellow, orange, blue and white with leather flower appliqués speak of warm, breezy days on the beach. Check out these harvests from United Colors of Benetton.

From Segue come light cotton bags with fun prints, from pretty beauty tools and makeup to funky newsprint and girl-power logos.

United Colors of Benetton is available at all Gift Gate stores. Segue is available at SM Megamall and Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati.



FLORALS on cotton twill bag from Benetton 2006 Spring-Summer Collection

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Join the **Summer Entrechef 2006**
The Pioneer Entrepreneurial Culinary Summer School
April 10 to May 27 at the San Antonio Social Hall, McKinley Rd., Forbes Park, Mkt City

Children's Course 7-12 years old P8,500/8 sessions
Young Adult's Course 13 years old and above P10,500/8 sessions

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Save Up with BPI and Upgrade Your Lifestyle!

A lifestyle upgrade is an exciting prospect for many of us. After all, who wouldn't want to drive home a brand new luxury car, move to a more upscale neighborhood or simply have more cash at one's disposal?

Now, the Bank of the Philippine Islands lets you upgrade your lifestyle, whatever stage in life you are in—whether you're just starting out, somewhat successful or already accomplished. Get a chance to move from the usual to the grand when you join BPI SAVE UP, MOVE UP promo. As the title suggests, you have a chance to move up in life when you save with BPI.

The promo is open to all peso and foreign currency individual account holders who open or maintain Savings, Checking or Time Deposit Accounts with BPI, BPI Family Savings Bank or BPI Direct Savings Bank. Every ₱5,000 deposit in savings or checking or ₱25,000 in a time deposit entitles a depositor to get one (1) electronic raffle coupon. The more you save, the more chances of winning.

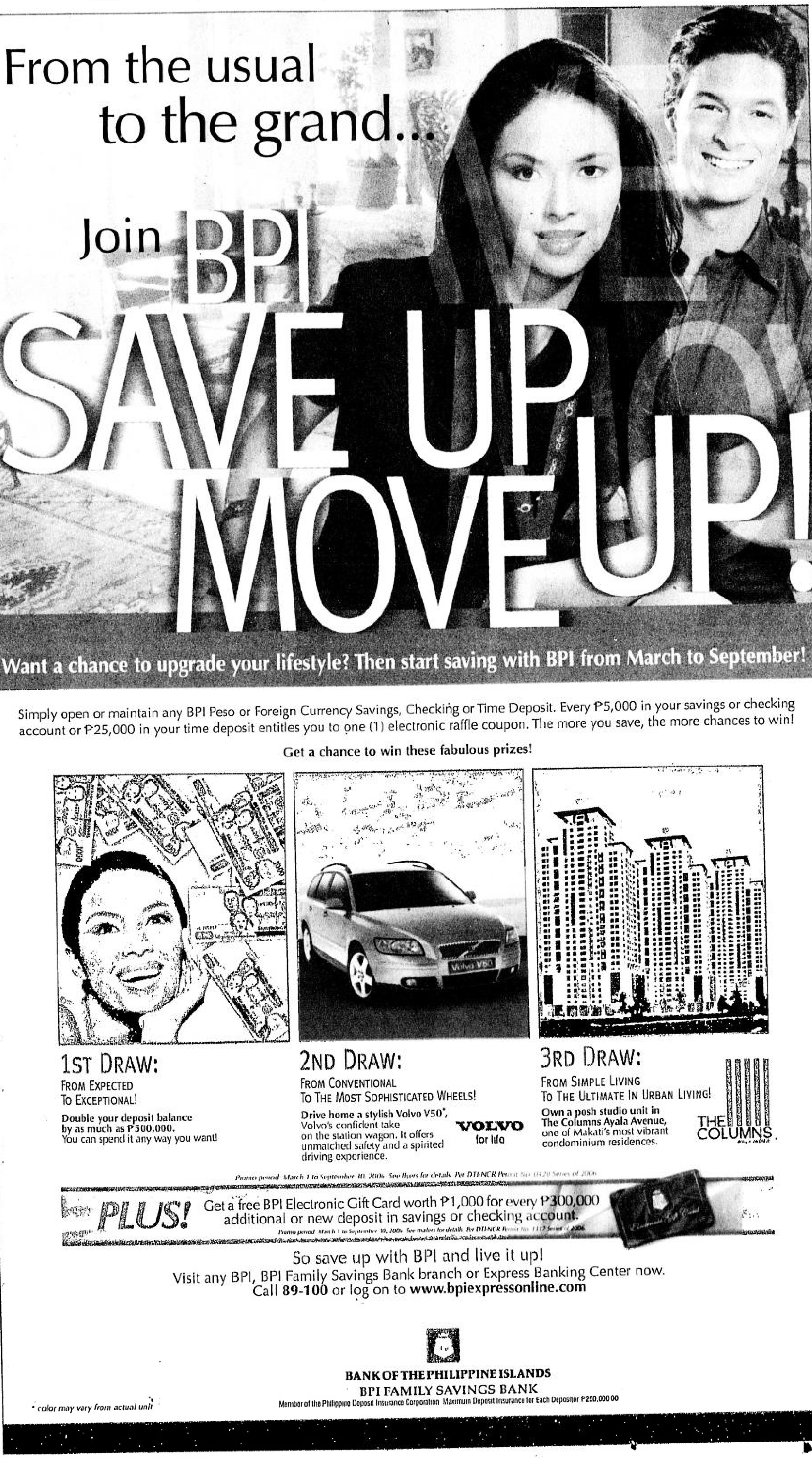
Three exciting lifestyle prizes will be raffled off. In the first draw, BPI gives you the chance to double your total deposit balance by as much as ₱500,000. You may use this big inflow of fund in whatever way you want.

The second draw prize is one that the entire family will love. Get a chance to win a stylish Volvo V50 station wagon. With the Volvo V50, family trips will never be the same again.

Lastly, the prize for the third draw is an upgrade anyone will surely welcome. BPI is giving you a chance to own a posh studio unit at The Columns Ayala Avenue, one of Makati's most vibrant condominium residences. This is perfect when you want to start out on your own or for newlyweds who wish to start their new life together in style. It can also be the best gift a parent can give his child. You can also use it as an investment because it appreciates in value.

But that's not all. On top of BPI SAVE UP, MOVE UP's exciting raffle, a depositor is also entitled to get a BPI Electronic Gift Card worth ₱1,000 for every ₱300,000 new or additional deposit in savings or checking. The gift card comes in the form of a BPI Express Cash Card. Unlike other gift cards which limit your shopping to selected establishments, you can use the BPI Express Cash Card in over 45,000 MasterCard Electronic establishments nationwide to purchase anything and everything you desire.

So start saving with BPI today! Who knows, you could be in for a fabulous lifestyle upgrade! For more details, visit any BPI, BPI Family Savings Bank branch or Express Banking Center. You may also call 89-100 or log on to www.bpiexpressonline.com.



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to the grand...
Join BPI
SAVE UP
MOVE UP!
VOLVO
for life
THE COLUMNS

Want a chance to upgrade your lifestyle? Then start saving with BPI from March to September!

Simply open or maintain any BPI Peso or Foreign Currency Savings, Checking or Time Deposit. Every ₱5,000 in your savings or checking account or ₱25,000 in your time deposit entitles you to one (1) electronic raffle coupon. The more you save, the more chances to win!

Get a chance to win these fabulous prizes!

1ST DRAW:
FROM EXPECTED
TO EXCEPTIONAL!
Double your deposit balance by as much as ₱500,000.
You can spend it any way you want!

2ND DRAW:
FROM CONVENTIONAL
TO THE MOST SOPHISTICATED WHEELS!
Drive home a stylish Volvo V50*,
Volvo's confident take on the station wagon. It offers unmatched safety and a spirited driving experience.

3RD DRAW:
FROM SIMPLE LIVING
TO THE ULTIMATE IN URBAN LIVING!
Own a posh studio unit in The Columns Ayala Avenue,
one of Makati's most vibrant condominium residences.

Promo period March 1 to September 10, 2006. See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0420 Series of 2006

PLUS! Get a free BPI Electronic Gift Card worth ₱1,000 for every ₱300,000 additional or new deposit in savings or checking account.

Promo period March 1 to September 10, 2006. See mailers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1117 Series of 2006.

So save up with BPI and live it up!
Visit any BPI, BPI Family Savings Bank branch or Express Banking Center now.
Call **89-100** or log on to **www.bpiexpressonline.com**

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* *color may vary from actual unit*

STANDING: Marilyn Teotico, Ayds Valencia, Daisy Mendoza, Christy Zialcita, Merle Villacorta, Nini Mitchell and Dolly Galang. Seated: Marian Pablo, celebrator Bob Tenchavez and Marienne Pimentel

SAN BEDA HS Class '62 members and wives: Rene and Carmela Azurin, Dina and Mario Soriano, Bob Tenchaves, Bimbo and Queenie Mills, Doris and Joey Venezuela, Mon and Isa Guevarra, and Benny de la Cruz

BEDANS: Raffy Ramirez, Alex Evangelista, Lito Bermuda, Archit Evangelista, Eddi Mendoza, Edgar Talavera, Alan Lee and Willie Pelino do "New York, New York!"

SURPRISE! Betsy Basa T. escorts husband, business magnate Bob Tenchaves, to his birthday party.

EMCEES Bob Garcia and Anna Sobrepeña

KATE Gordon and Pinky Tanjanco

Surprise birthday bash for sexagenarian

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

"SHHH...," THE INVITATION instructed us. "It's a secret, please don't tell, but when **Bob Tenchavez** comes, let's all yell... 'Surprise!'"

It was definitely a super surprise party, *palanggas*. To Bob, as to most of us young at heart, age is strictly a case of mind over matter. If you don't mind, he says, it doesn't matter.

So when he turned a dazzling 60, he thought it would be a day spent quietly with a thanksgiving Mass and dinner with his *famille*. He had, in fact, just arrived with his wife, classic beauty **Betsy Basa** , from a fab Baltic cruise.

But unknown to him, *famille* pals and classmates had spent weeks preparing for a birthday bash with the theme, "For the love of Bob."

Guests were told to come in red, black or white, which were the same colors for the party at the sprawling garden of the Tenchavezes.

Bob was totally unprepared for the big surprise! He was shocked. Even his high-school gang from San Beda were there to greet him.

Guests were then treated to a superb dinner of the best prime ribs, from the Tenchavezes' own resto, Tender Bob's, natch. They also feasted on *paella*, *lechon*, chicken sophia, and blackened *bacalao* by Barbara's. The cuisine had all the invitees talking about it for days, *palanggas*.

To lighten things up even more, Bob's San Beda's class did an Apo Hiking Society medley.

A close pal of Bob and Betsy from their New York days, **Nini Mendoza Mitchell** jetted in from Singapore to choreograph the women in their awesome "La Vida Loca" number. And for an encore, the men performed "New York, New York" complete with a chorus line, dahlings.

Bob's granddaughter **Lui** and son **Boom** also performed a dance number, amazing everyone.

As a finalé, a touching video got everyone on a nostalgic mood, but only for a while. Because *aprés* the roasting and blowing out of the 60 candles, everyone went to the dance floor, rocking. Later, all staggered home, exhausted but happy. After all, it was all "for the love of Bob," *n'est ce pas*, as in, *di bala, palanggas*.

Go-getting card

At the launch of the Go! Mastercard at the colossal Crown Plaza Hotel, the grand ballroom was transformed into an awesome airport VIP lounge. The invitees couldn't praise enough the imaginative flight of fancy.

But the true star of the show was Go! Mastercard, with its new features and extras, such as the Go! Rewards Program that earns you Go! Cash Gift Cards, special gifts and privileges, such as installment programs; and the Go! Balance Transfer Program, "all designed (to boost the cardholder's) purchasing power!"

Go! Mastercard is the latest baby of the Robinsons Retail Group and Cebu Pacific, represented by none other than dashing and brilliant **Lance Gokongwei**, the president and COO of JG Summit Holdings, Inc. Other Robinsons officials were **Jody Gadia**, Robinsons Supermarket general manager; **Graham Coates**, Robinsons Department Store general manager; **Bong Mojica**, Cebu Pacific general manager; **Vera Lim**, Cebu Pacific VP for sales; and **Tim Jordan**.

Gorgeous **Bianca Valerio** hosted the fun event that featured an energetic performance by **Geneva Cruz**, who kept all the men wide awake, dahlings.

A special fashion show had top mannequin and Go! Mastercard model **Ornusa Cadness** showing off choice pieces from Topshop, Topman, Dorothy Perkins and Robinsons newest international fashion label, Wallis!

Raffled off were Robinsons gift certificates and free Cebu Pacific trips for two to any local destination and a round-trip ticket for two to Hong Kong, natch.

Ready, *palanggas*, get set, Go! Mastercard. Call 8987088.

Fila sails ahead

The sun was hot, the sky clear blue and the wind perfect, *palanggas*, as Fila's hot, hot sailors from all parts of the country rushed off to the chi-chi Punta Fuego for the 4th Annual Sailing Fiesta.

Fila's fab happening got on a roll with a super bash at the new Yacht Club Bar.

The club has been organizing a regatta for their members and "we always hold it when the winds change," explained Club general manager **Xavi Gimeno**. "With 20 Fila sailors taking part in the event, it's a good mix of Fila hobies, long boats, small boats and sunfish dinghies."

During the registration party, there was **Alfred Xerez-Burgos Jr.**, Landco Pacific's president and CEO, doing the opening remarks. Equally important was when the club's GM, Xavi G., launched the EJ Roxas Perpetual Cup named in honor of the late **Eduardo J. Roxas**, the first chair of Club Punta Fuego's Marina and Sports Comittee, *palanggas*.

To officially start the regatta, colorful Fila sails were raised and the participants sailed away into the cool winds of the South China Sea. Meanwhile, the invitees gathered at the Terrazas de Punta Fuego, where they were entertained with DJ music.

The adrenaline shot high, *palanggas*, as the guests were given race updates by regatta top chair **Jerry Rollin**. When the boats sailed past the finish line, participants were welcomed by a sunset party where booze overflowed.

The last three races took place the next day, *palanggas*, at Punta Fuego's Lower Beach Club. Crossing the finish line first were **Mark Haswell** and **Karen Dinglasan** aboard the Hobie 16 "Bilis Biik." The winners of the EJ Rojas Cup were cool father-and-daughter team **Luigi** and **Yvonne Manzi**, who came in second. **Dennis Cruz** and **Iking Paterno** finished third. **Santi Picornell** was named best among the keelboats.

Once the sun had set, it was rock and roll, and, believe me, those sailors really knew how to party to the hot sounds of the Level Up and Liquid Apple group.

JAY and Osang Lim

THE TENCHAVES BOYS. Bob with Butz, Boom and Bobby Tenchavez

PATRICIA Go-Nisce, Lisette Cipriano, Joan Cosico and Norma Causing

CEL Go, IISA; Myrna Alberto, IISA president; and Vincent Go

CEBU Pacific's beautiful couple Simon and Tim Jordan, and Bong Mojica, general manager and COO of Cebu Pacific

GNC Maryann Borromeo

NANI Reyes, Bob Tenchavez, Tessa Atilano and Cora Tolentino

LULU Inocentes, Flory Montalvan, Billie Reyes and Cely Basa

CHARO Apacible, Apples Meer, TV's travel gal Susan Medina and Bella Ramirez

LYLET and Vic Lorenzo, Cryo president

IT'S ROCK-AND-ROLL time. Nini Valdes and Sen. Dick Gordon

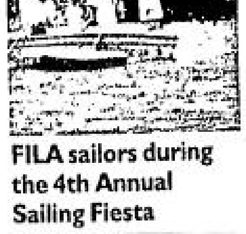
PUNTA Fuego club general manager Xavi Gimeno with Karen Dinglasan and Mark Haswell, champs of EJ Roxas Cup

ALOY Alday, Cindy Valenzuela, Candice Iyog, Joan Cosico, Anne Young, Lance Gokongwei and Owen Wilson

MIREN Mendoza and Carmina Quizon

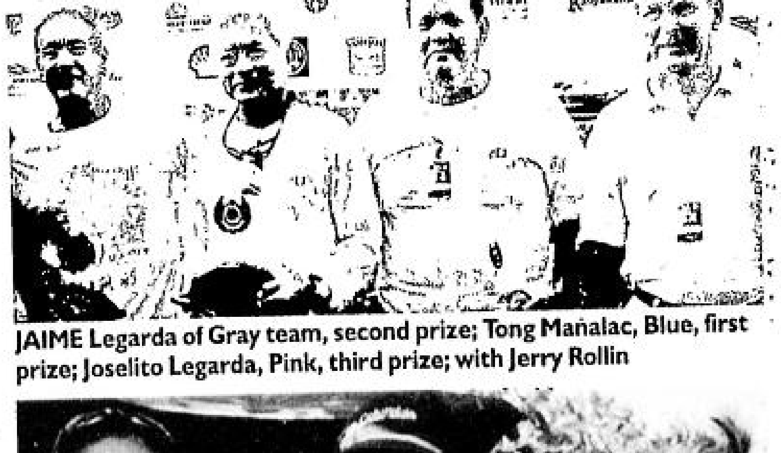
HOPE Gokongwei-Tang, Graham Coates and Mark Tansiongkun

ALESANDRA Ty and Jeanne Chua



FILA sailors during the 4th Annual Sailing Fiesta

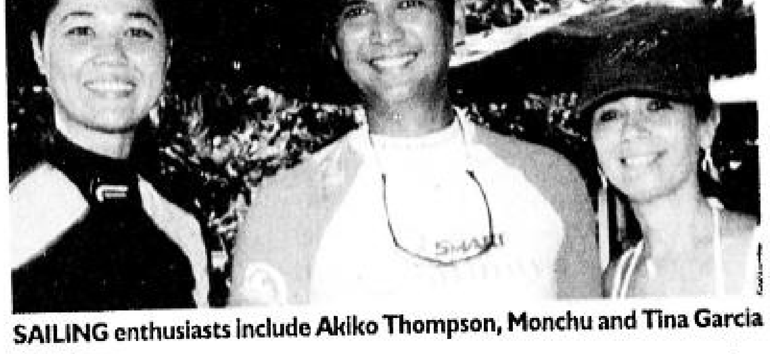
FILA sailors Renie Ticson and George Huang



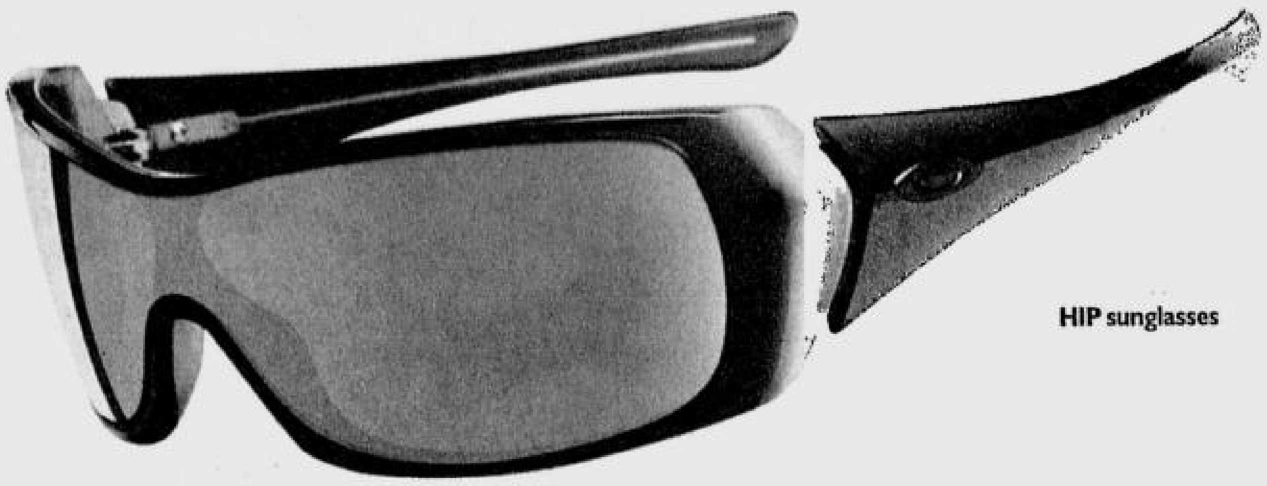
JAIME Legarda of Gray team, second prize; Tong Mañalac, Blue, first prize; Joselito Legarda, Pink, third prize; with Jerry Rollin

DRAGO Pilipinas team members James Bungubung, Darwin Basas, April Francisco, Jay David, Noli Eala and Aries Fonacier

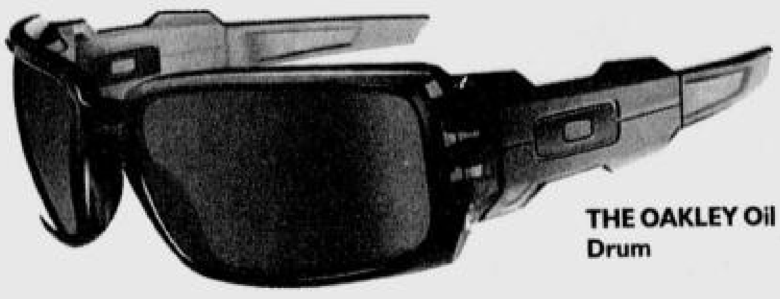
THELMA Guericke, Wanda Louwallien, Mr. and Ms Alex Campbell, Mr. and Ms Ton Vanchierden and Marieliese Evaristo



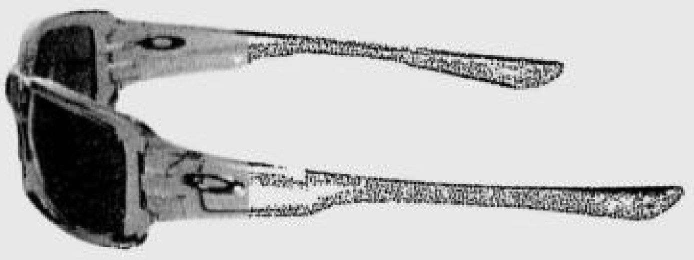
SAILING enthusiasts include Akiko Thompson, Monchu and Tina Garcia



HIP sunglasses



THE OAKLEY Oil Drum



Shades of summer

GIVE YOURSELF A MAKEOVER AND, IN case you want to start small and easy, set your sights on Oakley's newest eyewear guaranteed to be on the must-have list for the entire year of 2006.

The Razrwire Bluetooth sunglasses-cum-gadget is one of Oakley's contributions to the making of a wireless society. It lets you talk within 33 ft of your Bluetooth-enabled cell phone.

RAZRWIRE Bluetooth sunglasses-cum-gadget

Riddle is another one of Oakley's new designs that set the pace of eyewear fashion. The use of a single continuous lens, mounted flush with the outer surface of the frame, is a new design language for Oakley. The style is matched with the clarity of patented XYZ Optics to achieve lens contours that extend peripheral vision. Riddle also comes with an Asian-fit line for those whose glasses sit too low on the nose and have a tendency to slip.

Fives 3.0 improves upon the classic Fives 2.0, being more lightweight and sporty yet fashionable enough for casual wear.

Oil Drum is perfect for those with medium-to-large faces. It's a comfortable fit with the extended wrapped-frame geometry, plus the optional polarized lenses. Large metal icon accents complete the look.

Oakley Spike is physics elevated to an art form. Oakley High Definition Optics protects you from the elements and funky Unobtanium earsocks even provide moisture-wicking comfort.

These new designs were presented at the Oakley and Reef Boracay Invasion, which featured an Oakley Virtual Store in front of Club Paraw where all the beach essentials from Oakley and Reef were sold.

Oakley Eyewear is available at Almeda Optical, Executive Optical, George Optical, Ideal Vision Center, Magno Optical, Optical Works, Sarabia Greenbelt 3, G-Force Rockwell, G-Force Podium, Rustan's Department Stores, Aison Cebu and Avant in Greenbelt 4.

Children's camp registration

REGISTRATION FOR PROMIL PRE-SCHOOL'S Camp ProGifted 2006 will be on March 26. The series of workshops are designed for children aged 3-7. Camp ProGifted 2006 runs April 17-May 19. Registration fee is P4,500 per child. Parents can get up to P1,500 discount by presenting Promil Pre-School receipts. Registration on March 26 is at Glorietta 2 Lobby Area and, on April 1, at SM Megamall Bldg. A Activity Center. Call Camp ProGifted at Camp Mobile 0906-4408511.

PARENTING TALK. Communio et Missio, in partnership with Sweethearts of Christ and Family Life Apostolate SJRM, will hold a family-oriented event on April 1 at Chavez Gardens, 313 Cadena de Amor, Ayala Alabang. Topic of the soiree-type party is "Parenting Today's Children." Ed Soretta is main speaker. The St. James Renewal Movement Praise will perform musical numbers. Admission is free. Complimentary bar chow will be hosted by the Sweethearts of Christ. Love offerings for outreach programs are welcome. Call 6360255/58 or e-mail nancy_harel@globelines.com.ph.

GALA CONCERT. Romanian violin sensation Alexandru Tomescu will perform with pianist Mary Anne Espina at the Philamlife Theater Sunday, March 26, 8 p.m., in an evening of the music of Leclair, Beethoven, Sarasate and Paganini. For tickets call 9007023 or 0910-8851136.

WORKSHOPS. The Raya School offers summer workshops for kids: Theater and Movement, April 24-28; Arts for Toddlers, April 24-29 and May 8-12; Science, May 2-6; Creative Writing, May 2-6 and May 22-26; Rubber Art, May 8-12; Music and Movement, May 8-12 and May 15-19; Electronics, May 15-19; and Illustration and Paper Crafts, May 15-19 and May 22-26. All workshops will be held at 73-A Scout Limbaga St., QC. Workshop fee is P700. Call 3762184 or 0917-6287546.

RAFFLE PROMO. Sta. Lucia East Department Store and its affiliate stores, Planet Toys and Home Gallery, hold the Great Escape Summer Raffle Promo. Shop today up to May 15 and get one raffle coupon for every P500 purchase. At stake are cash and a trip to Boracay. SLE card holders earn double points and two raffle coupons. Grand draw will be on May 19.

Meanwhile, Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall's Generation East 2006—the Model Search will have its final screening today. Call 6815401 loc. 118.

SEMINAR. The Philippine Society of Librarians and Information Specialists (PSLIS) will hold a seminar-workshop,"Cataloging and Indexing Updates: An Achievement Workshop," on April 10-12 at 10/F SEC Bldg., Edsa, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City. Call 7241994, 5278351 local 206, 0919-7727678, 5238688 and 0919-5180128.

NEW STORES. Girls who love anything in pink—pendants, flower hair clips, bracelets or candy-shaped ponytails—will surely enjoy the two new stores of Pinkbox, now open at the G/F, SM City Sta. Rosa, Laguna, and soon at the 2/F, Mall of Asia, Pasay City. Known for its wide collection of hair clips, charm bracelets, personalized necklaces and cell phone chains, Pinkbox caters to the young and young at heart. Check out very affordable Ouchless ponytails for all ages in various colors to choose from, at prices ranging from P15 to P59.75.

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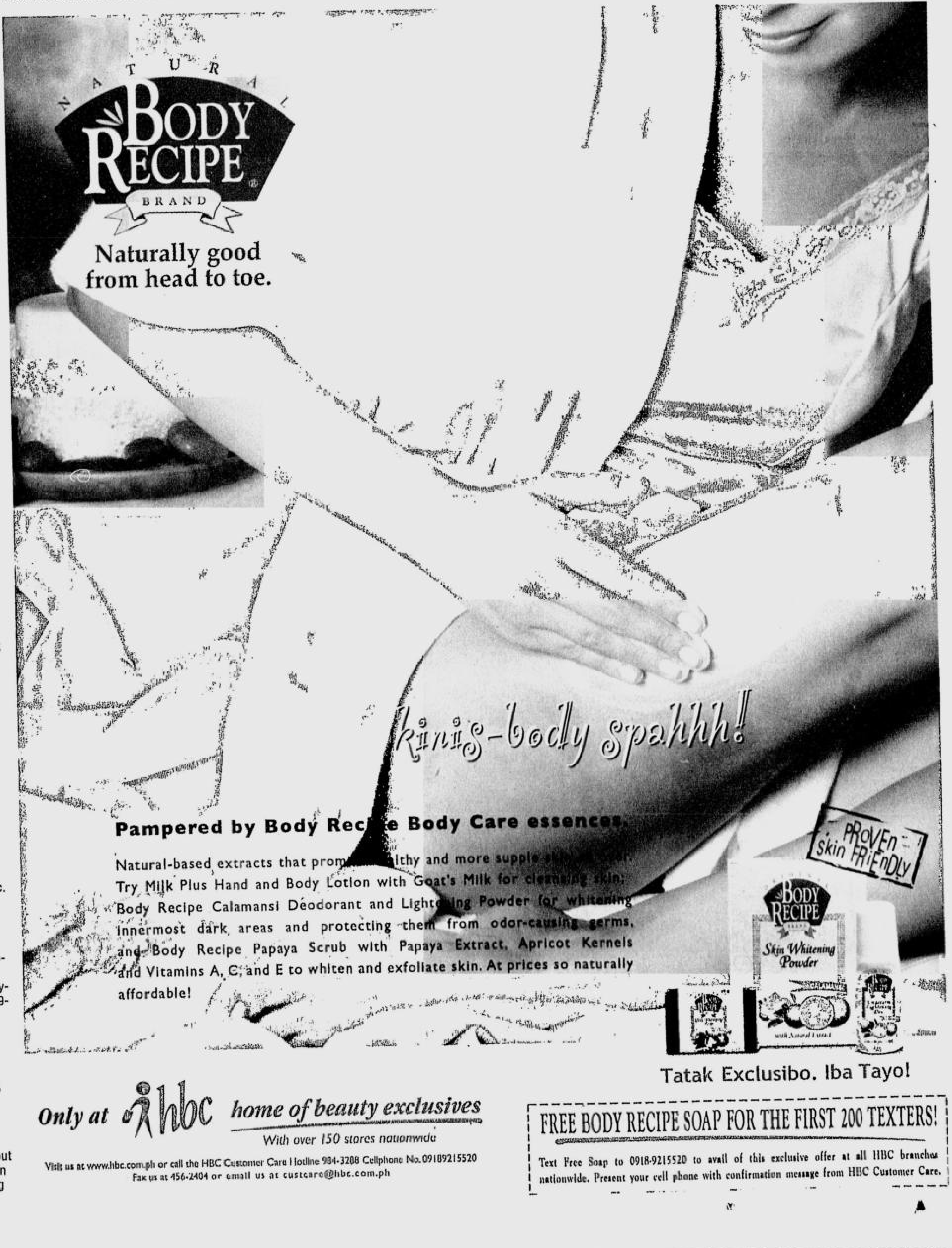

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Fashion Week newsbits

FASHION Week guests at the NBC tent will be able to sample delicious treats from the Goldilocks GoLite, a line of guilt-free desserts and pastries made with absolutely no sugar.

FOR THE NINTH CONSECUTIVE year, Runway Productions' Philippine Fashion Week, slated from March 31-April 9, will showcase the country's most talented designers, with established names joining the up-and-comers.

As part of its support for the event, Sony Ericsson is unveiling three stylish handsets: the J220i, J230i and W810i.

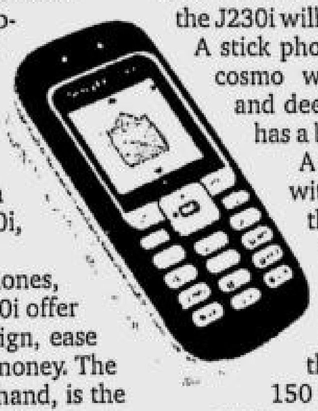
Billed as "easy" phones, the J220i and the J230i offer a combination of design, ease of use and value-for-money. The W810i, on the other hand, is the latest Walkman phone to strengthen Sony Ericsson's music phone lineup.

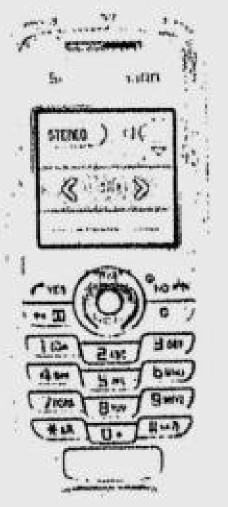
A stick phone optimized for even the most clueless technophobes, the J220i has a simplified click menu access. It comes in smooth black and sky blue.

For those who want to be in tune with the world at all times, the J230i will prove to be ideal.

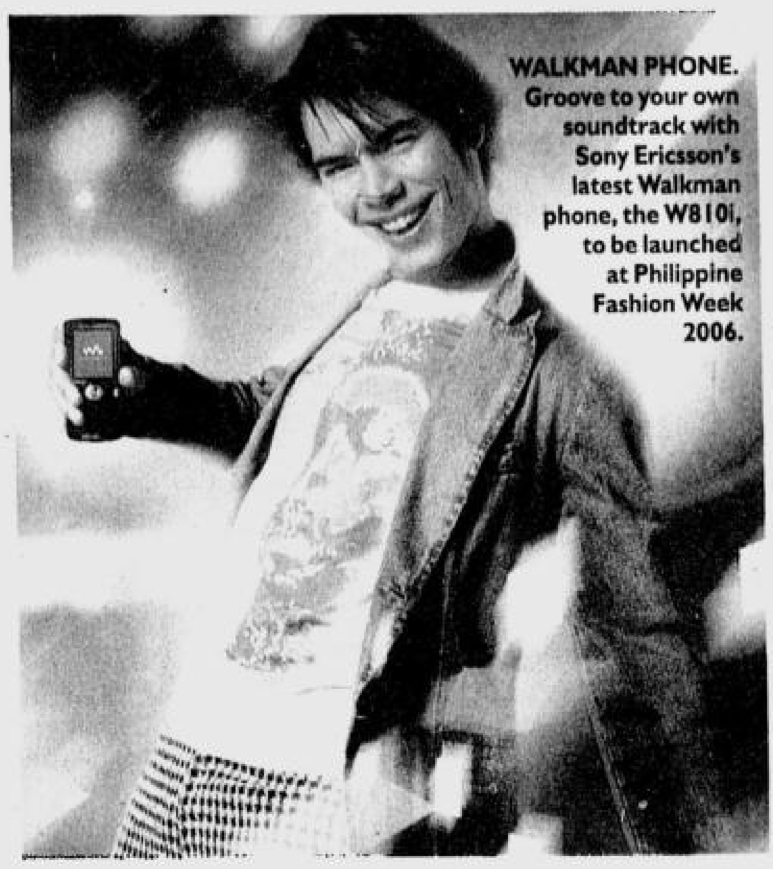
A stick phone that comes in cosmo white, cherry red and deep blue, the J230i has a built-in FM radio.

A satin black phone with orange trim, the sophisticated W810i comes with a 512 MB removable Memory Stick that can store up to 150 songs. Aside from storing a wealth of music tracks, photos, video and other multimedia files, the W810i also has an integrated two-megapixel auto-focus camera.





SONY Ericsson J230i (above) and Sony Ericsson J220i (left)



WALKMAN PHONE. Groove to your own soundtrack with Sony Ericsson's latest Walkman phone, the W810i, to be launched at Philippine Fashion Week 2006.

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Avida renames New Manila & Sucat Towers

Popular condominium developments Aeropolis New Manila in Col. Bonny Serrano Ave. Quezon City and One Aeropolis Sucat at Dr. A. Santos Ave., Parañaque, were recently renamed Avida Towers New Manila and Avida Towers Sucat, respectively.

The move follows the lead of Laguna Properties Holdings Inc. (LPHI), the developer of both projects, which recently adopted Avida Land Corp. as its new corporate name.

Offering studio, one-bedroom and two-bedroom units that range in price from P1 million to P3.2 million, Avida Towers New Manila and Avida Towers Sucat provide affordable living to middle-income families, Avida's target market.

The new names better reflect the position of the company in relation to its mission and the aspiration of its clients. Avida is a contraction of "Ave" meaning "to celebrate" and "vida" or "life". Studies have shown that clients of the former LPHI consider their homes as sources of pride and fulfillment – both good reasons to celebrate life, notes Dinna Bayangos, president of Avida. "Avida truly offers affordable living at its best," she says.

Aside from offering units that are built to last, the Avida Towers projects will be managed by Ayala Property Management Corp. (APMC), the Ayala Land subsidiary that maintains properties developed by the property giant and its subsidiaries. By managing building systems such as water and sewerage and overseeing key services such as security, APMC will ensure the upkeep of the Avida Towers.

Banking on the Ayala Land heritage of Avida, unit owners are assured that projects will be delivered as scheduled and that the company will stand by its commitment to homeowners long after the sales have been realized.

When they move into an Avida property, residents are provided with more than just a roof over their heads, but also a thriving community life through amenities that enhance bonding among residents. These include a social or community hall, a swimming pool, jogging paths, and Zen-inspired gardens where they can converge and celebrate life.

Avida Towers

Parañaque Mayor Jun Bernabe (2nd from left) graced the Sucat event with Avida executives Steve Dy (left) and Ed del Valle (3rd from left). Event host was DJ Crystal of Magic 89.9 (right).

With these reasons, more and more overseas workers, single professionals, entrepreneurs and young families see Avida Towers as the place where their dreams become realities.

The renaming of its New Manila and Sucat condominium towers was marked with a Mardi Gras last March 11 and 12. The celebration of a new beginning served as the theme of the twin events marked by percussion performance, a magic show, refreshment, souvenir items and fun activities.

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

LIFESTYLE

BEAUTY

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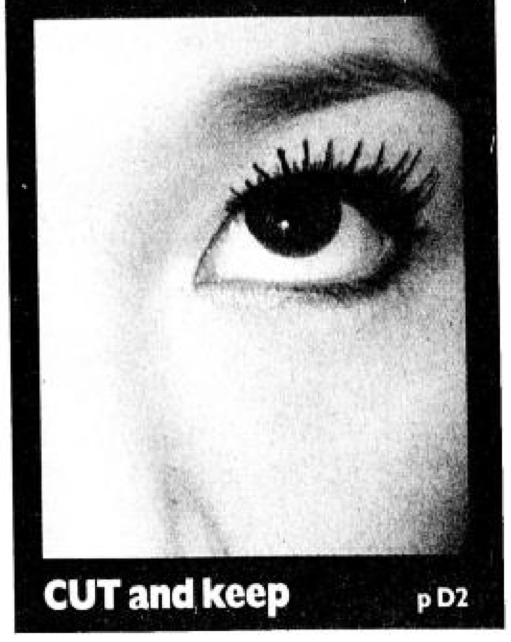
NAIL it! p D2



CUT and keep p D2

SUMMER protection p D3

HUES and shades p D3

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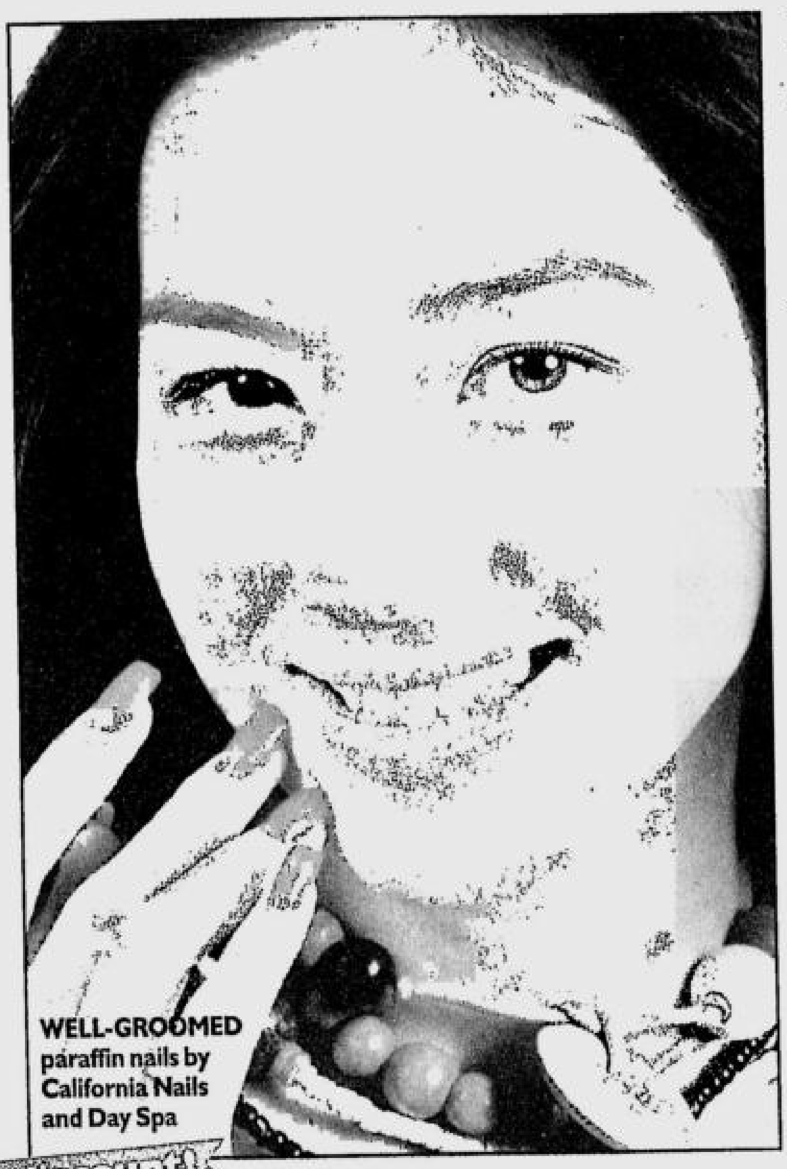


WELL-GROOMED paraffin nails by California Nails and Day Spa

I think French manicure is the safest and looks clean. Plus, I've yet to hear a boy not liking it. Big bonus!

KNOCKOUT!

Ria Francisco-Prieto

I HAVE A DREAM ROOM. NO, IT doesn't have a flat-screen TV. It's a room where I can get a facial so I don't have to lie on the living room sofa when I'm getting one from Elvie Gonzales (0915-9901231). She is so good, I actually am having second thoughts of putting her number for fear of her not having time for me after this article. I just have to be brave... A room where I can get my manicure and pedicure and body wax.

I think every girl or metrosexual should have such a room. I don't really mind getting a massage in the bedroom. It can be pretty convenient since I doze off anyway. But if I had a separate room to get a massage, then I can just doze off there without having to worry about oil stains. Just imagine...

I can actually go on and on about my dream room. I even have a color in mind and can imagine what it would smell like. I know for sure I would actually look for a CD that plays the sound of running water or of birds chirping. Sometimes I would play Enya.

But I don't have one, thus the word "dream." When I told my husband about my dream room, he said we had an extra room but we were people of substance so it should be a library filled with books instead. At that point I told him straight out that I preferred having a mani-ped room instead of a library because I am a girl who cared about my well-being first and foremost.

Since he never brought up anything about the extra room again, I still don't know if I would get my dream room.

Pampering

Back to reality. I do love getting mani-peds. Normally, I don't even have them paint on polish since I don't know how to take care of it well.

And I love getting my legs waxed even if I hardly have any hair. It's just that after I pamper myself, I feel good. That's more than enough reason to brave the Makati traffic and visit California Nails and Day Spa in Salcedo. I think they have perfected the art of putting nail polish, French manicure and acrylic.

Since I'm not an adventurous person, I've not had acrylics done since I heard that it damages the nails. But because I'm curious by nature, I asked some friends who have had it done and they said their nails came out fine. Now, I'm open to it.

Let me give you some tips on picking a shade to have your nails painted.

If you are fair-skinned, look for colors with blue undertones. If you want to do a red shade, check out colors with berry tones, and if you want a pink shade, stay away from the ones that are close to beige, since it just makes your skin tone look dull.

If you are medium skin-toned, avoid cool undertones. Try deep browns and warmer shades of pink. Check out Essie's Ballerina Slippers shade in Essenses. *Morenas* should go for warm browns, bright pinks or deep purples. Personally, I think French manicure is the safest and looks clean. Plus, I've yet to hear a boy not liking it. Big bonus!

Rewarding

As a whole, manicures are rewarding whether they are done at a salon or at home. After a long day, having something done or doing it yourself is a definite pick-me-upper. I would think it's better than Prozac when you are feeling down.

After having something done—be it a manicure, pedicure, wax, or a massage—you will leave with a happier, sunnier frame of mind. I guess it's really like that in everything. And when it comes to beauty rituals, the best thing is that the reward is instant. Besides, groomed nails will make you feel like a "truly polished" woman.

When presenting yourself, remember that everything comes into play, not only your clothes and the accessories you wear but most especially your cleanliness, the glow of your skin and how you feel inside. In all honesty, would you rather sport a designer shirt and not have well-kept nails, or a white T-shirt and pretty French tips? Think about it. Aside from the latter costing less, you even get a free massage! \

GET WAXED and bikini ready this summer, thanks to California Nails and Day Spa.

discount!

California Nails and Day Spa Summer Time Promo

- Get a free pedicure gift certificate for every P1,500 worth of services.
- Get a free manicure gift certificate when you avail of a paraffin hand and paraffin pedicure treatment.

Promo until April 30.

California Nails and Day Spa has branches in BF Homes, Salcedo Village, Greenhills, Magallanes, Libis, and Market! Market!

---

cut & keep

Green-eyed but no monster

GREEN IS A STRONG COLOR SO A LOT OF women are wary of using it. You wouldn't want to look like Shrek or a green-eyed alien. So I suggest you use it sparingly.

If you are not comfortable using green eyeshadow, start with green eyeliner. Choose the right shade of green according to your skin tone.

If you are dark-skinned, you're very lucky because all shades of green suit you. For yellow-toned skin like ours, olives and yellow-greens suit us well. Fair-skinned women should be a little careful with bright greens to avoid looking too harsh. The hues can also be overpowering.

Always remember the makeup rule. If you are wearing bold green on your eyes, keep your cheeks and lips understated.

Eyes—I applied a pink base up to her brow bone to even out the color of her eye area. This also gives the illusion of brighter eyes. I skipped eyeshadows and proceeded to apply an emerald green eyeliner on top of her lid.

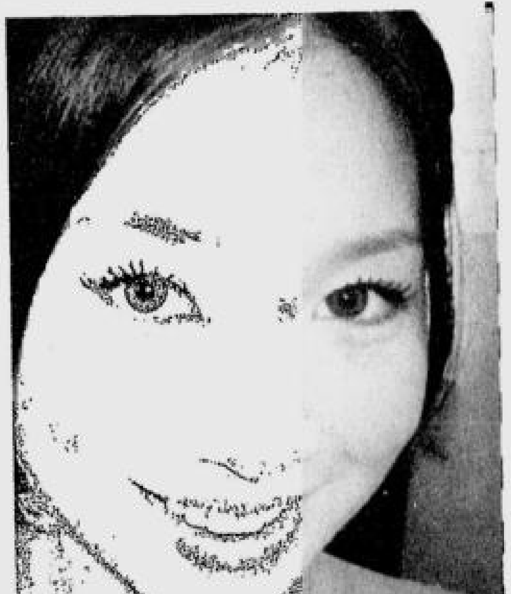
Start at the innermost eye and just draw a straight line up to the outer eye area. If you have a hard time doing this, just follow the line where your lashes grow.

I also applied the eyeliner on the bottom lash to make her look more exotic and adventurous. I used two shades of green on her lower lash—emerald green on the outer corner and mint olive green on the inner section. This softened the emerald green and kept her from looking too harsh.

The last step was the application of two coats of mascara on the upper lash to open up the eyes.

Products to try—Art Deco Eyeshadows #40 and #44, Mac Eyeliner in Hyacinth

TEXT AND MAKE UP
BARBI CHAN
MODEL MARY PADILLA



AFTER

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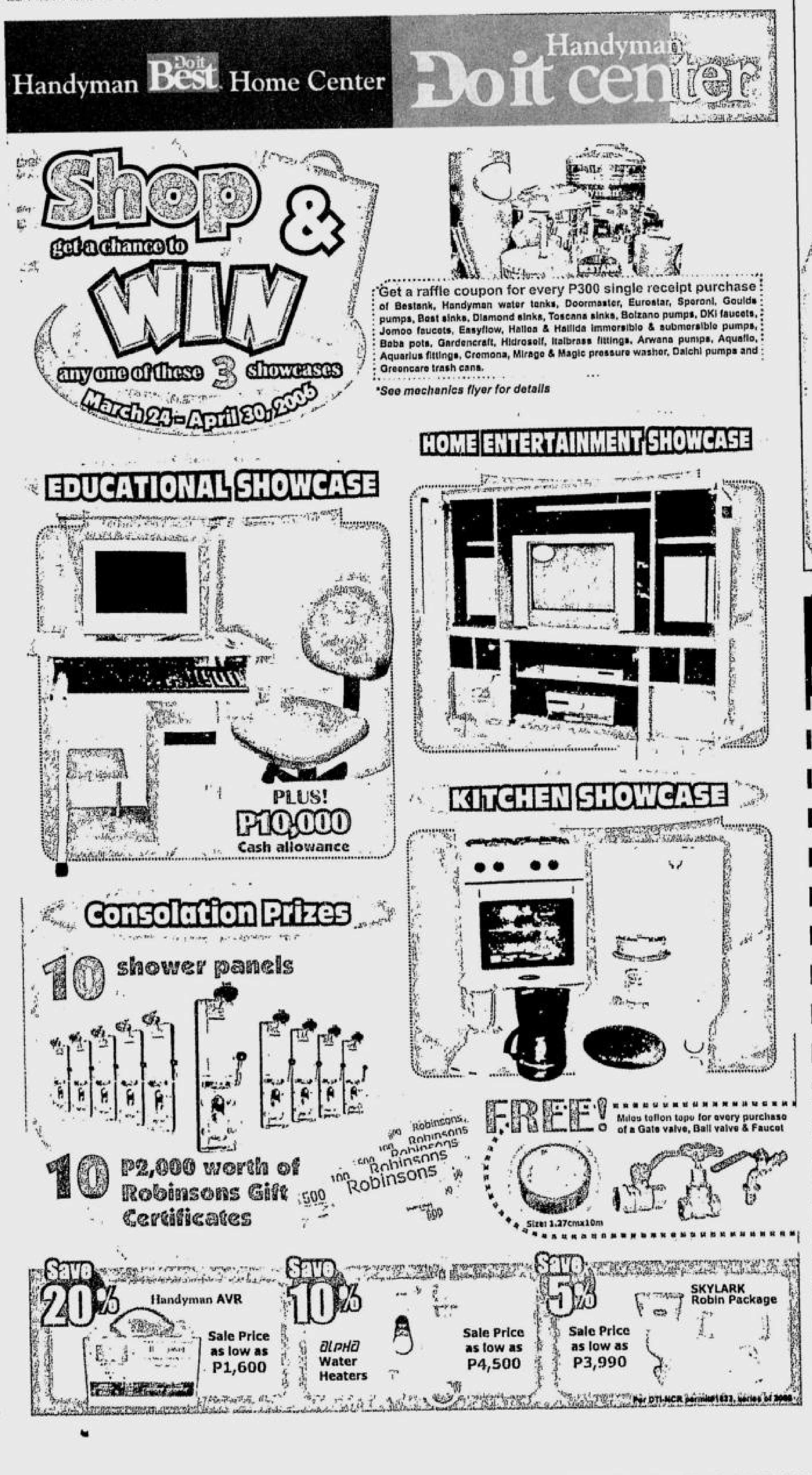

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Per DTI-NCR permit#1833, series of 2006

Preventing summer breakouts

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

AS SOON AS SUMMER became official, cosmetic companies stopped pushing their moisturizers and anti-aging creams—now it's all face mattifiers and anti-acne lines.

The sad truth is that the aging process does not stop just because the season has changed. In fact, many are now panicking because the creams recommended during the colder months are making their skin break out now. I have compiled my favorites among the road-tested products that firm the skin and abolish lines without making the oily but aging skin break out.

SkinCeuticals C E Ferulic (call 2424242 for inquiries). This potent antioxidant serum eases up skin damage, boosts skin protection and stimulates collagen. It may be expensive but it gives the skin a glow that's visible a few hours after application. The effects are cumulative: skin firmness, better color and texture. My jawline and cheek contours are more "lifted" and defined. Applied only every morning after cleansing and toning, its effects actually last up to three days without reapplication as the solution cannot be washed off once rubbed on face, neck and back of hands. Of course I apply it faithfully at least every other day, if not daily. Only a few drops are needed for all these areas so the vial actually lasts a long time. The only downside: It smells like hotdog for the first minute, but the aroma quickly disappears.

L'Oreal Revitalift White (P995). This is a multitasking, anti-aging and non-greasy solution that firms skin, makes pores look smaller, eliminates fine lines and brightens skin tone by fading age spots so that the skin looks more even. It is designed to be used with the anti-aging Revitalift range, but I use it instead with the Skin Refiner pore minimizer line, which controls breakouts and shine, or with the White Perfect range if I feel my skin looks dull. Like C E Ferulic, this is designed to be used under a moisturizer or sun block.

ANEW Force Extra triple lifting night cream

Avon Anew Force Extra triple lifting night cream (call 8642900 for inquiries). I know I'm aging because two years ago when I used this, I found it too rich. But using it lately, I noticed my skin was firmer, non-greasy, glowing and hydrated. Waking up every morning is a thrill for me because my skin always looks so rejuvenated and lifted. Wish they would come up with an equivalent eye cream.

Silky hair

Those who color their hair regularly, whether for fun or out of necessity, suffer from stiff, dull, damaged strands that are hard to comb and control. L'Oreal Powerdose is the quickest and most lasting treatment to whip your hair back into shape.

Talk about having your cake and eating it, too. Hair becomes silky soft and incredibly shiny, worthy of any shampoo commercial. The only catch is that it is not sold to customers but is strictly a salon service. I had mine done at Philosophy salon by Mikaela at Pasay Road, Makati (tel. 8163697).

Baby-soft skin

There are days when I am dying to go to a spa but too lazy or broke to get there. When The Body Shop sent me its Spa Wisdom range I could not have been more thrilled. My choice picks are the African Spa salt scrub that smells like yummy shea butter and sesame, which I apply on dry skin for a thorough but gentle rub down. It is not as abrasive as most body scrubs so it's ideal for daily use on sensitive skin.

THE BODY Shop African Spa salt scrub

One tip though: Use a spatula to scoop out the amount you need because if you dunk your fingers the oil will rot and the mix will spoil as there are no preservatives.

Step two is washing it off with the Dreamboat milk bath, which smells like Lotus and Frangipani. Step three is applying hydrating body purée, which smells like citrus fruits and roses and has a gel texture that feels cool and non-sticky.

For extremely dry areas like the elbows, hands and cracked heels, I highly recommend the Africa Spa Rich Body Balm, which can penetrate the thickest, most dehydrated areas.

E-mail the author at kinnysalas@yahoo.com

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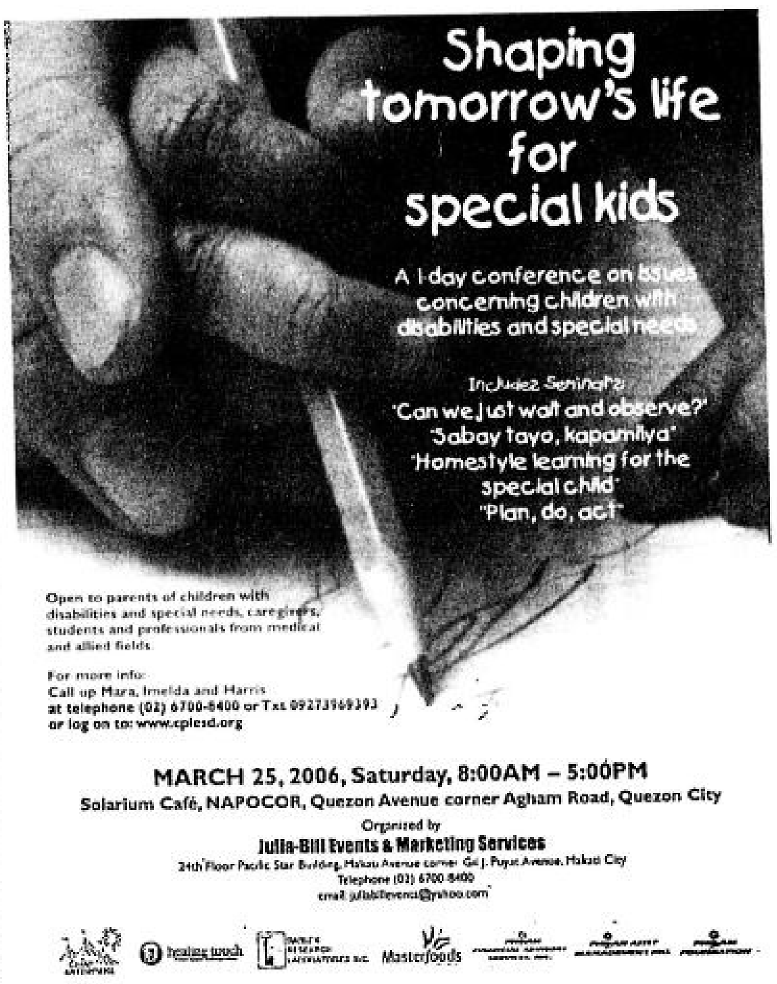

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LET YOUR pink lips speak for themselves with this rosy look from Avon Color.

Hues and shades from sunup to sundown

LOOK morning-fresh with rosy hues and neutral tones from the Avon Color palette.

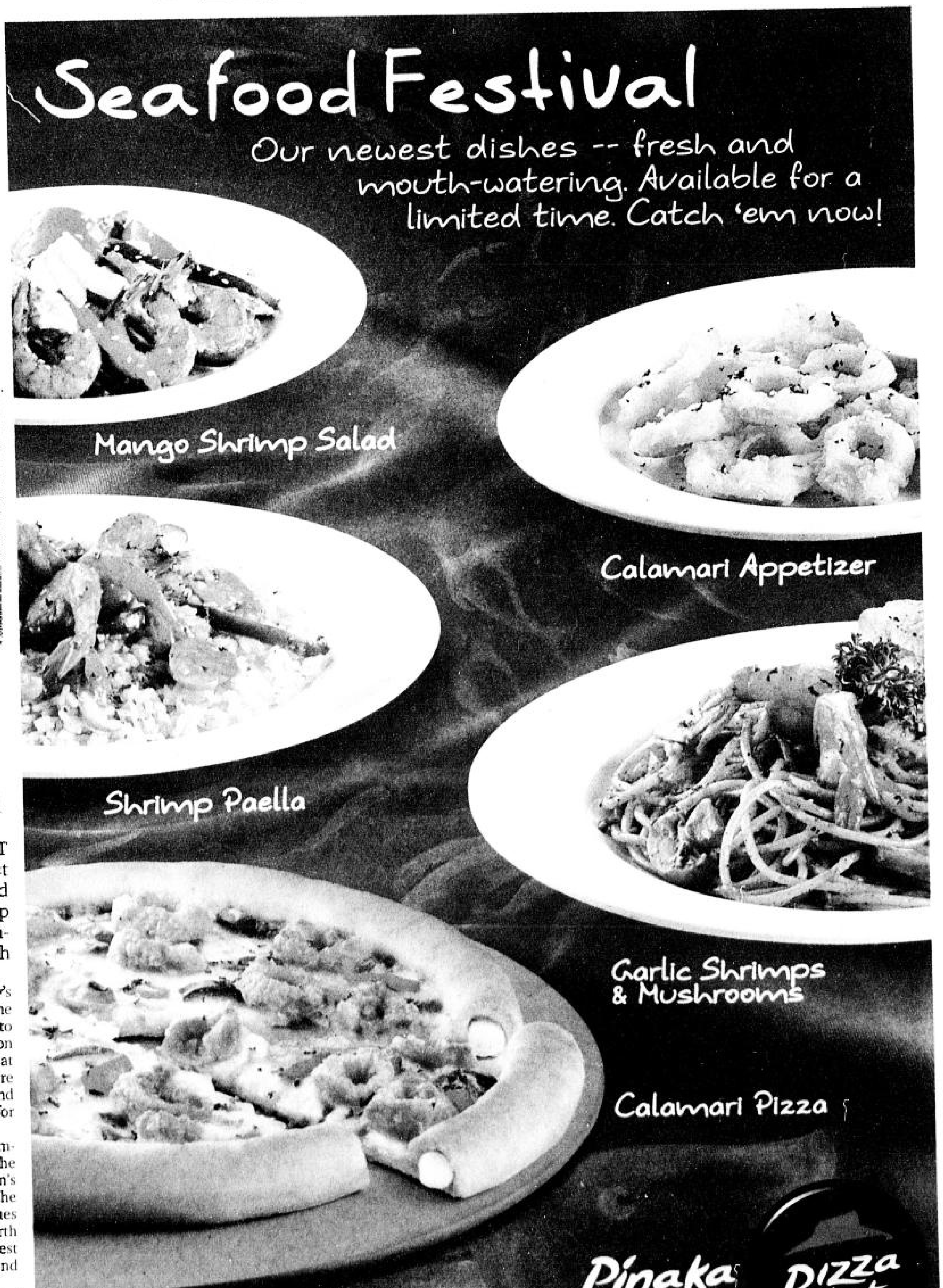
FIND OUT the latest day and night makeup styles on Fashion Week March 31-April 9.

Some of the city's hottest names in the fashion scene take to the catwalk with Avon Color to show what colors and styles are best for daytime and what is suitable for evening events.

Light plays an important role in the way a woman's makeup looks. In the morning, soft hues like pink or earth tones like tan are best for that fresh and young look.

Toto Bagamasbad keeps things clean and simple with Avon Color Personal Match

HUES/ D4



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Based on 2005 ARO Survey

Hues and shades. . .

From page D3

Dual Powder Foundation in Almond. He adds a touch of rosy glow with Rose Lustre blush. For the eyes, it's Taupe and Rich Cream from the Lilac Dream True Color Eyeshadow Quad palette.

Eric Maningat creates something dreamy in pink for daytime, choosing the rosiest shades from the Avon Color collection—Twinkle and Pink Frosting from the Deepest Rose True Color Eyeshadow Quad and Pink Bouquet Glimmersticks Lip Liner and Avon Color Shine Supreme Lip Color in Glossy Rose.

For evening, Jingky Ilusorio exaggerates natural Asian features with Avon Color Pure White Pressed Powder in Almond and lines the eyes with Glimmersticks Eye Liner in Black. Lashes are brushed with Avon Color Wash-Off Waterproof Mascara in Black. Blazing red lips are created with Glimmersticks Brick Red Lip Liner and Ultra Color Rich Lipstick in Red 2000.

Kei Pagtakhan puts the drama in the eyes. He paints the eyes with Deep Sea and Night Sky from Avon's Denim Eye Shadow Quad with a touch of Rich Cream from the Lilac Dream palette.

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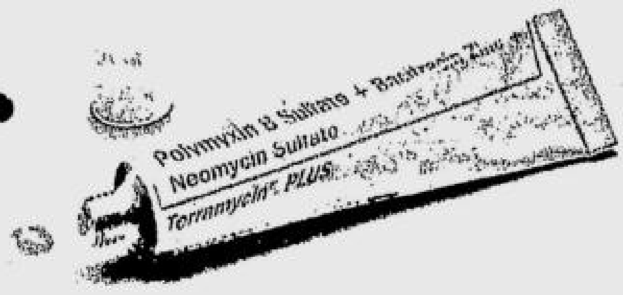

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Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**
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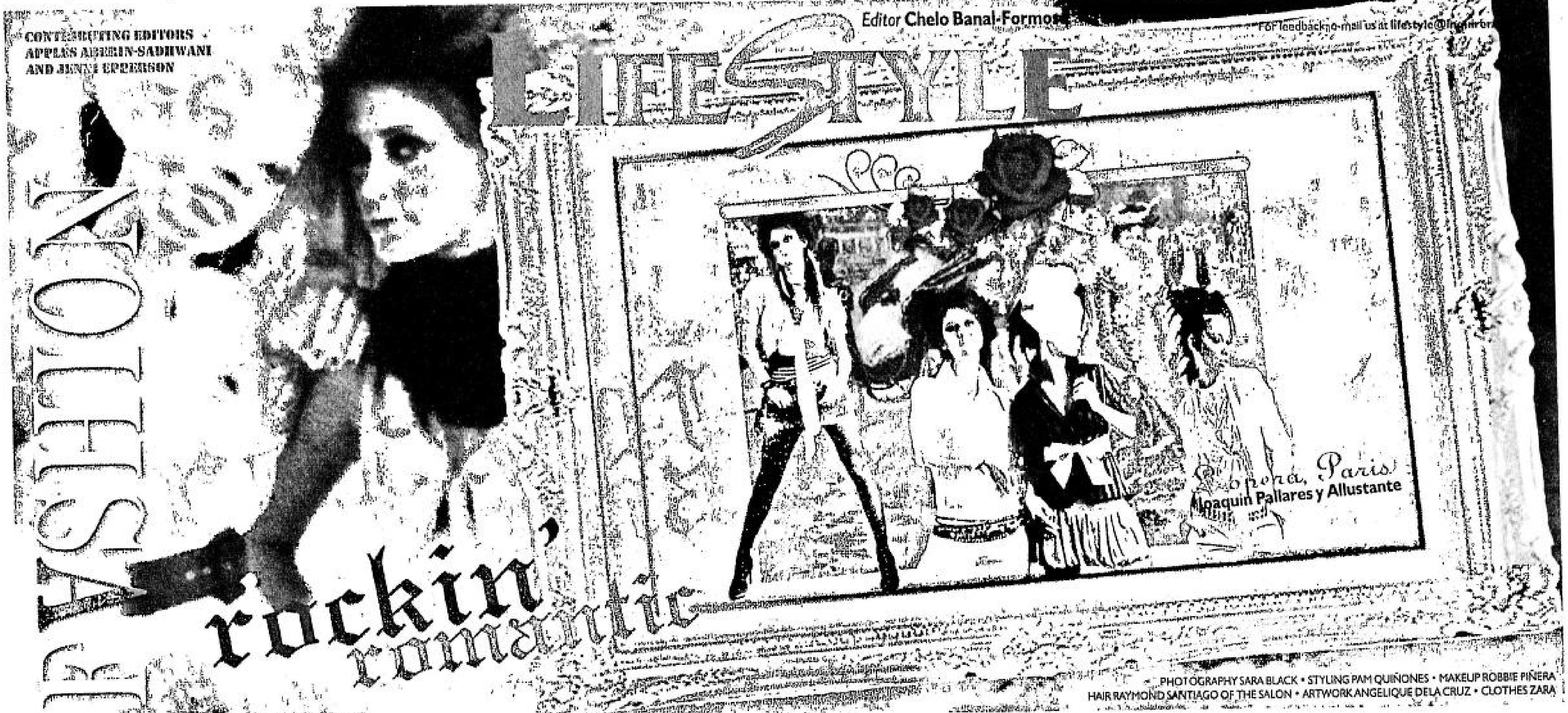
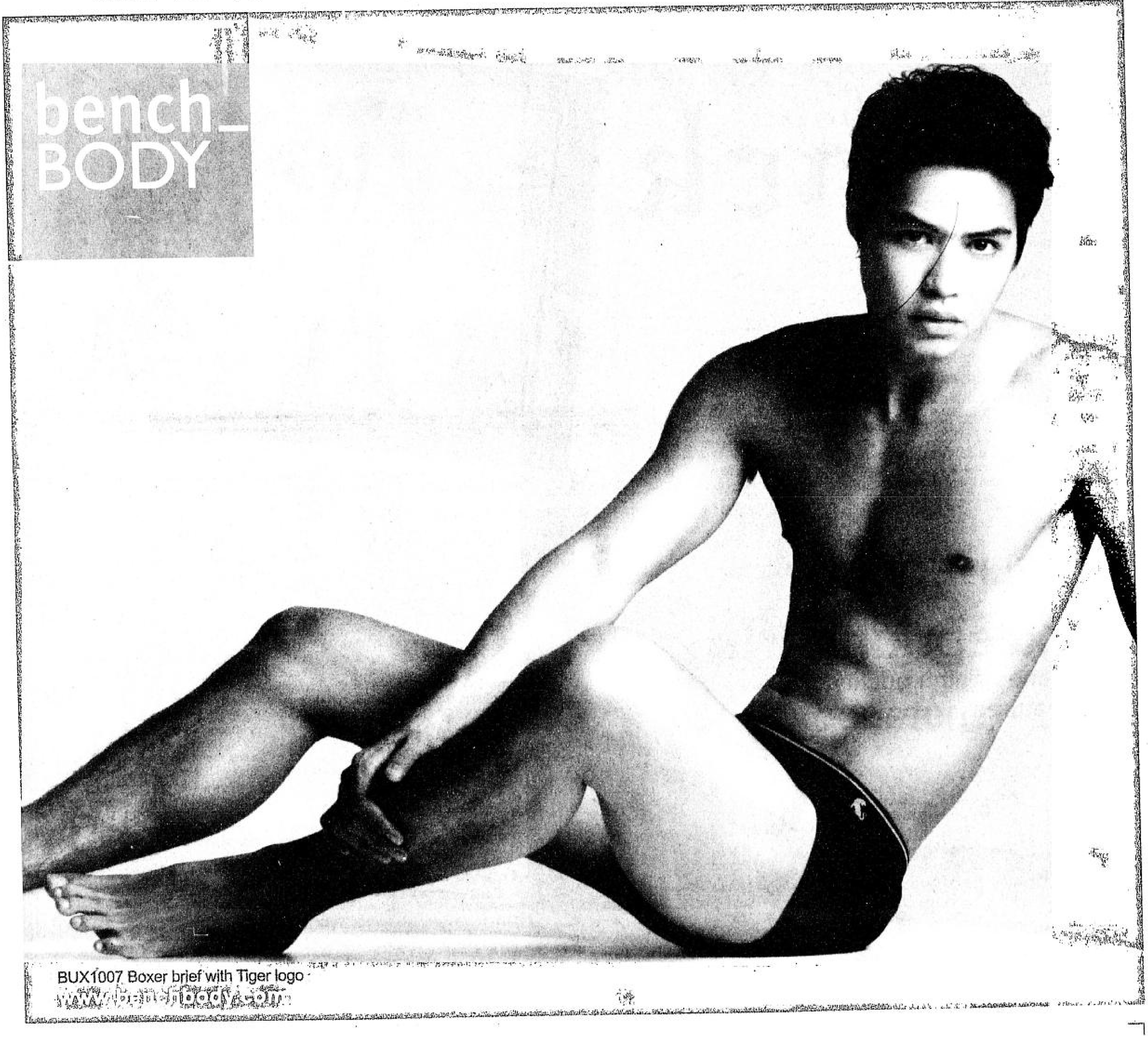
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS
APPLES ABERIN-SADHWANI
AND JENNI EPPERSON

FASHION

rockin' romantic



PHOTOGRAPHY SARA BLACK • STYLING PAM QUIÑONES • MAKEUP ROBBIE PIÑERA
HAIR RAYMOND SANTIAGO OF THE SALON • ARTWORK ANGELIQUE DELA CRUZ • CLOTHES ZARA



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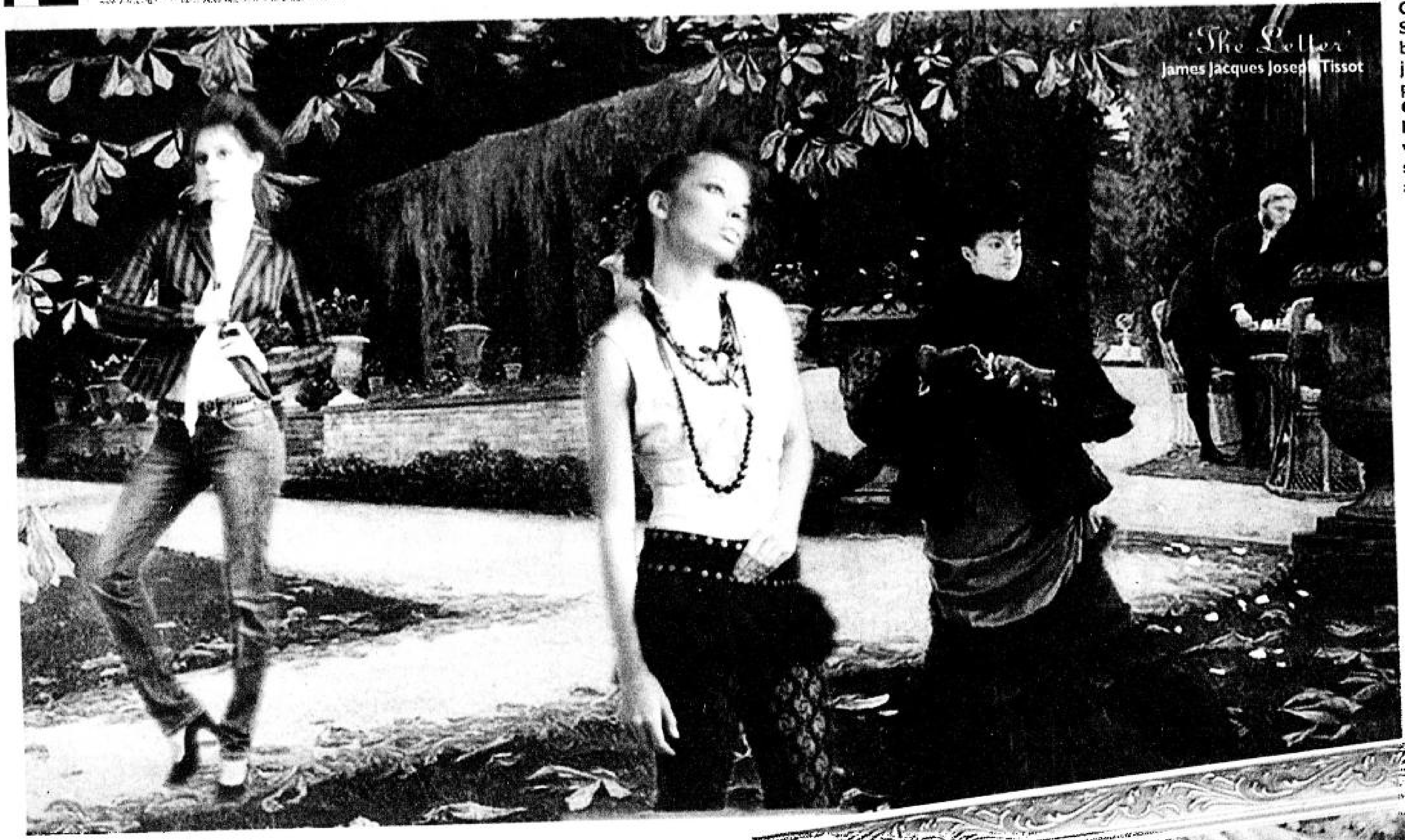

ON ROSEANA: Slim jeans, Victorian blouse, striped jacket and suede pumps.
On Nicolette: Ruffled halter top, beaded vest, tiered tulle skirt, laced tights and studded belt

Rock chic with a romantic twist? It's a rebellious yet glamorous look

The new school of rock

By Allison W. Lopez

LEATHER JACKET, denim mini, slogan T-shirt, black stockings, knee-high boots, steel accessories. Add to that dyed hair, piercings, tattoos and black-painted fingernails for the perfect f**k-you sign.

It's pretty easy to look like a chick who digs rock music. Subtlety is definitely out of the question. An "I don't give a damn" attitude is required. Everything is dark, rough and tumble, sometimes even bordering on crass and trash.

Dressing up like a hardcore rock chick, though, is old school. The new school of rock? Rock chic with a romantic twist. Think vintage Victorian—ruffles, lace, ribbons, puffed sleeves; soft chiffon and crushed silk—all mixed and (mis)matched with the harshness of leather, denim and in-your-face accessories like huge cuffs, killer stilettos, even fake fur. It's a look that's glamorous but cheeky, sweet yet seductive.

Black is no longer the national anthem. In order to look less daunting and more feminine, you'd want a brush of color here and there. Not to worry—you won't be asked to wear fuchsia. Basic neutrals like beige, ivory and white, and reddish hues like plum and mauve will add that ladylike feel without detracting from the whole bad-girl aura.

Denim is the undeniable staple of the rock-chic look. It's sexy and versatile—whether washed-out, torn or embellished. Skinny jeans look especially hot nowadays. Pair them with a graphic tee during the day, or a silky cami at night. Layering is also key when it comes to different textures. Aside from cropped jackets, vests are also making a big comeback.

For attitude with an enormous A, the key word is accessorize. Oversized sunglasses, necklaces, bangles, studded leather belts and bags do the talking, while fab finds (leopard-print platforms!) from your fave *ukay-ukay* can up the ante and personalize your look. There's not much restraint; the overall look is reckless and excessive.

Usually there's a temptation to overdo even makeup. Don't! If you choose smoky eyes, then that's just perfect with nude lips. And it's smoky, not swollen, okay? If you're thirsty for blood-red lips, go light on the eyes instead. Hair is loose and craftily disheveled— whether curly or straight—and preferably in one hue.

Experiment!

The thing to remember is NOT to look too put-together. Imagine picking random stuff from your closet, then wearing them all together and still managing to look über-stylish. Dig it? It may take you some time to experiment, but as in the freedom-loving '70s, just "go with the flow."

Such is actually the spirit of the Romantic movement in the 1800s, where creativity ruled and emotions were exalted, where artists believed in spontaneity, freedom from boundaries and rules. They generally rejected absolute systems, and asserted the importance of the individual, the unique, even the eccentric. Colors abounded in their palettes, and nature in all its splendor formed the predominant backdrop.

For added inspiration, channel Kate Hudson, a genuine rock chick. After playing Penny Lane in "Almost Famous," Hudson turned from reel into real groupie with her marriage to rock star Chris Robinson of Black Crowes. Her love for things bohemian equals a look of carefree, wild-child abandon.

The rock-chic look is for someone who craves attention but denies loving it, someone who's willing to push borders and pull out all the stops. Ditch the scare fare. You don't even need to scowl, dearie. Just a flirty smile and a wink, and rock stars will fall and do the worshipping. Art and fashion, after all, can be very suggestive.

E-mail the author at alopez@inquirer.com.ph

PHOTOGRAPHY SARA BLACK
STYLING PAM QUIÑONES
MAKEUP ROBBIE PINERA
HAIR RAYMOND SANTIAGO OF THE SALON
MODELS NICOLETTE BELL
AND ROSEANA FERNANDES, IDEAL PEOPLE
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NOW OPEN ZARA GLORIETTA 3,
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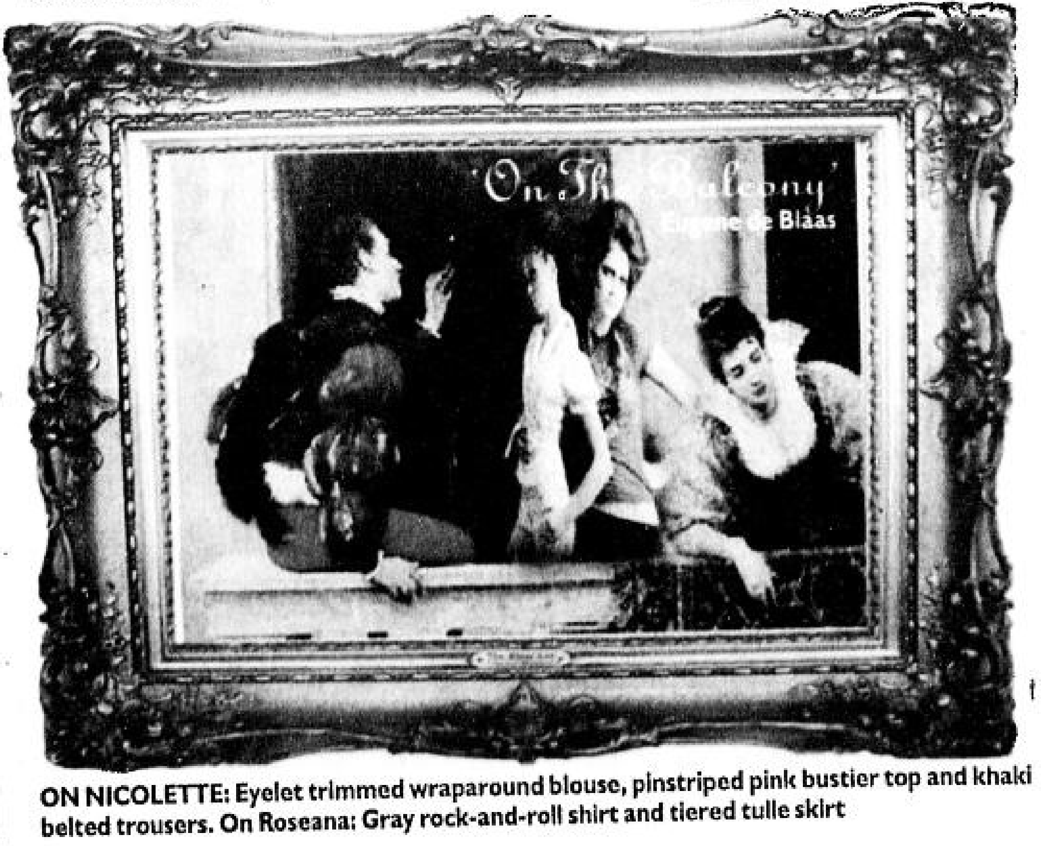
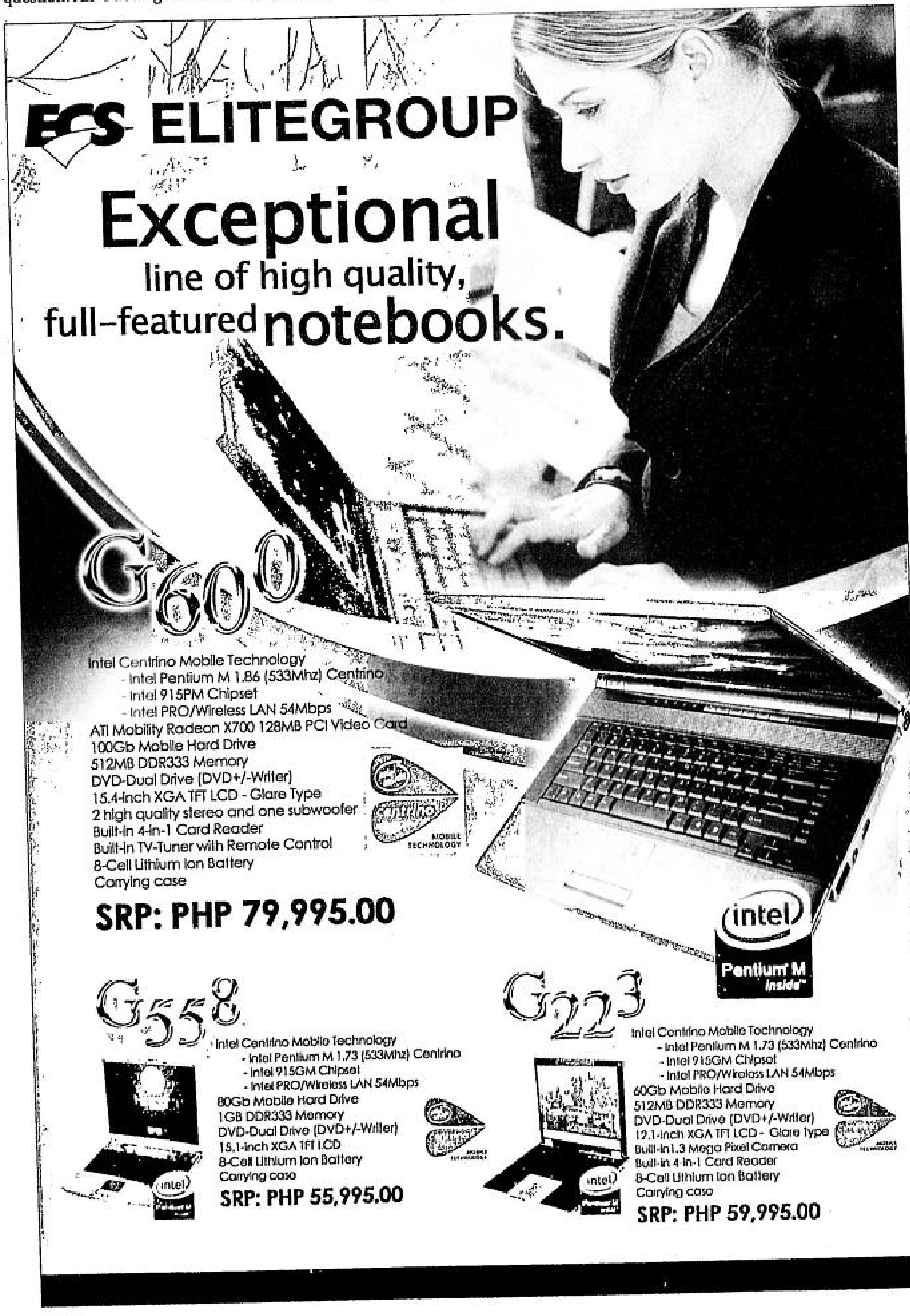
La Volupte
Madelei Jeanne Lemaire

ON ROSEANA: Striped crew-neck shirt, gray rock-and-roll shirt and eyelet trimmed wraparound blouse. **On Nicolette:** White jacket, white cropped trousers, ruffled halter top, eyelet trimmed and wraparound blouse



ON NICOLETTE: Eyelet trimmed wraparound blouse, pinstriped pink bustier top and khaki belted trousers. **On Roseana:** Gray rock-and-roll shirt and tiered tulle skirt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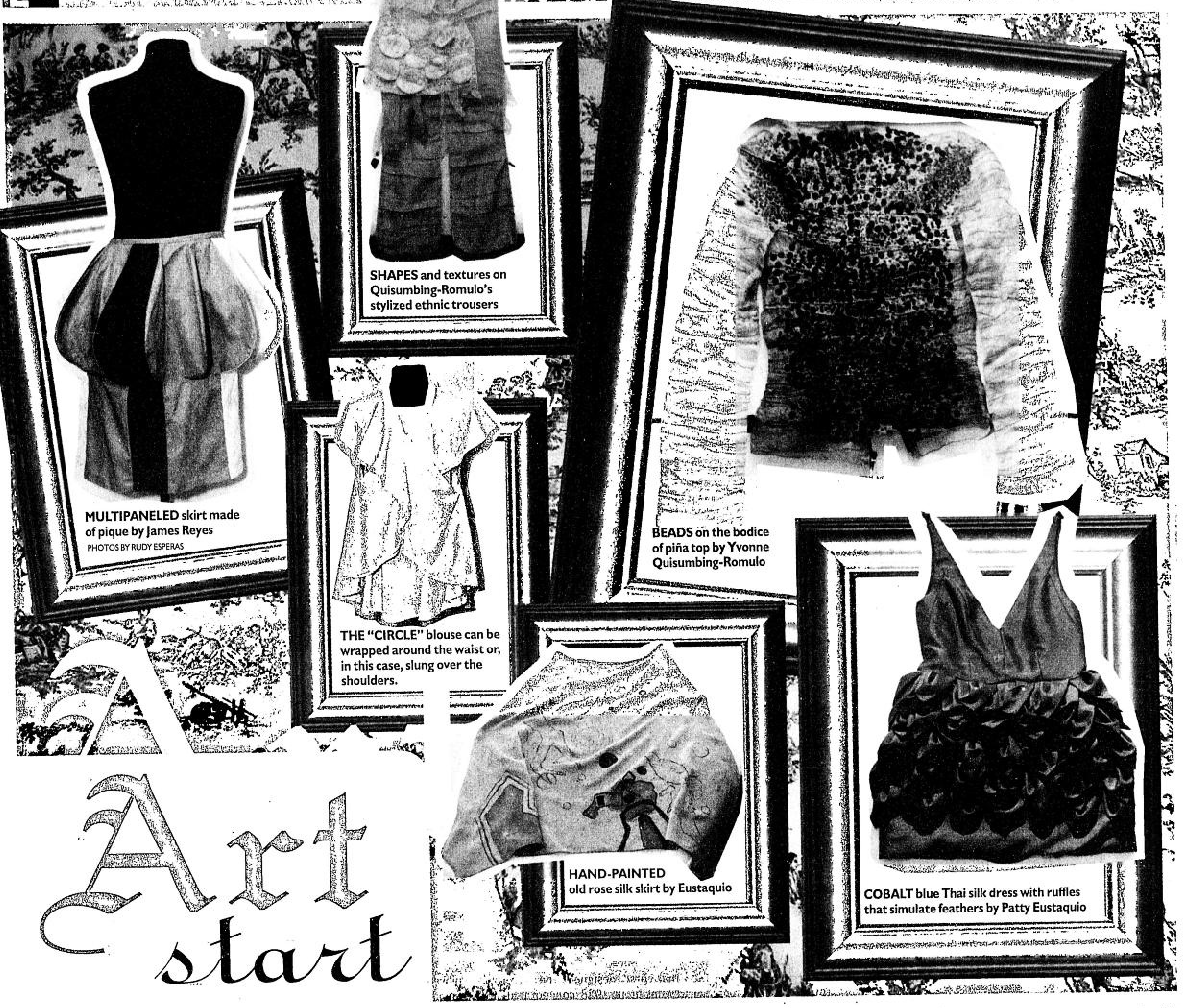
Art start



MULTIPANELED skirt made of pique by James Reyes

PHOTOS BY RUDY ESPERAS

SHAPES and textures on Quisumbing-Romulo's stylized ethnic trousers

BEADS on the bodice of piña top by Yvonne Quisumbing-Romulo

THE "CIRCLE" blouse can be wrapped around the waist or, in this case, slung over the shoulders.

HAND-PAINTED old rose silk skirt by Eustaquio

COBALT blue Thai silk dress with ruffles that simulate feathers by Patty Eustaquio

Three designers are managing the transition from one art form to another seamlessly

By Alex Y. Vergara

IN CASE YOU STILL DON'T know (or haven't accepted yet), fashion design is a legitimate form of art. In fact, some of today's young talents were already steeped in various art forms before they branched out and found their respective niches in the world of fashion and accessories.

In her desire to improve her fabric installations, for instance, painter and sculptor Patty Eustaquio took up pattern making two years ago under Joji Lloren. She became so fascinated with her new-found skill that, apart from accepting commissioned artworks, she soon found herself designing clothes for other people.

"I used to view it as an accident," says the petite fine arts graduate from the University of the Philippines. "But come to think of it, it seemed like a natural progression since I've always loved dressing up since I was little."

On a practical note, Eustaquio feels more financially secure now that she has two sources of income. She has no intention of abandoning the visual arts. The artist-designer, however, is the first to admit that she's a very poor time manager.

"I try to make up for it by being adept at multitasking," says Eustaquio, whose atelier in Makati also doubles as her art studio.

Sumptuous pieces

Fashion and accessories designer Yvonne Quisumbing-Romulo, who has earned a reputation for crafting sumptuous and heavily embellished pieces using such components as leather cutouts, crystal beads and coarse thread, was unwittingly lured into fashion by Inno Sotto himself.

While taking up interior design at the Philippine School of Interior Design some years back, she had to cross-enroll at the College of St. Benilde (CSB), where she crossed paths with the veteran designer.

"Inno was teaching fashion design then," she explains. "Such was his influence on me that after finishing interior design, I immediately took up fashion design at CSB."

She was already into painting way back in high school, thanks to artist-brother Anton Quisumbing. In fact, she initially wanted to take up fine arts, but her family encouraged her to pursue either architecture or interior design.

Her killer schedule these days doesn't afford her to dress up like her chic clients, but even as a child, Quisumbing-Romulo already took pleasure in seeing well-dressed people.

Call of fashion

Unlike his female colleagues, James Reyes was already holding a regular job in one of the country's leading ad agencies when the call of fashion beckoned.

As the agency's associate creative director, the advertising graduate from UP did a lot of layouts and illustrations by hand. Using a computer to accomplish such tasks was then in its infancy.

"Working with the computer helped me manage the transition from graphic to fashion design much later," he says. "It (computer) has a way of making your illustrations look three dimensional."

Reyes' interest in fashion began way back in high school, but it had to take a back seat as a young adult. In between the years he spent at Campaigns & Grey, he occasionally did fashion illustrations for this paper's lifestyle pages.

The status quo began to change when he decided to join the Mega Young Designers' Competition four years ago. It was more out of whim, as Reyes didn't have the wherewithal to execute his entry.

"I think doing fashion illustrations honed me to present my ideas well," he says. "Imagine my surprise when I ended up as one of the 10 finalists."

Thanks to good friend Greg Centeno, Reyes was able to flesh out his idea into a decent dress. Aside from lending him the services of his cutter and sewer, Centeno provided the upstart designer with a venue to work on his piece.

Reyes represented the country in the Paris competition later that year before he finally decided to quit advertising and pursue fashion design full-time. In the meantime, he took a short course on dressmaking at Slim's.

"Changing careers wasn't easy," he admits, "but somehow I was able to deal with it. Time and again, I seek the advice of good friends like Ivar (Aseron), Dennis (Lustico) and Joji."

Practical art

Clothes may just be another medium for these designers, but they see to it that lines are clearly drawn between their various endeavors. Quisumbing-Romulo, for instance, makes sure that her clothes are "wearable, washable and dry-cleanable."

"I treat my clothes as works of art," she says, "But at the same time, they have to be practical. Embellishments, for example, are mostly confined within the chest area to frame the face. I also make sure clients can sit on the clothes."

But if Eustaquio's experience is anything to go by, there are no conscious delineations as far as an artist's thought process is concerned.

"It wasn't like that in the beginning," she says, "but right now it's starting to merge in my head."

Like her two colleagues, she credits her background in the arts for her ability to compose and visualize three-dimensional pieces. Because of their exposure as artists, they also have a wealth of influences and inspirations to draw from. All three, by the way, are members of the prestigious Young Designers' Group.

From one art form to another, from one discipline to the next, these artists-cum-designers seemed to be managing the transition seamlessly.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

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brag board

Next time you want to invest in a work of art, think out of the box and consider practical pieces that you can actually tote around. Art is not just confined to traditional canvases hanging in galleries or the walls of your home. Nowadays, they come in all shapes, forms and sizes, including standout purses and carry-alls that are rich in colorful, attractive prints.

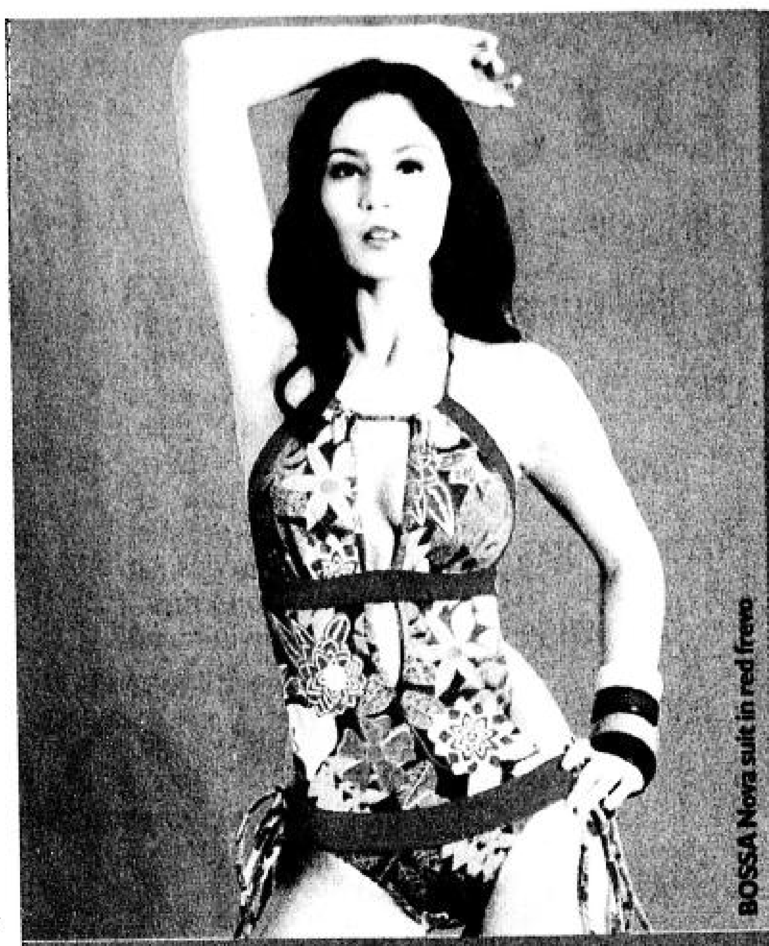
DRESS up your white or khaki ensemble with Ferragamo's camel patchwork-style shoulder bag.

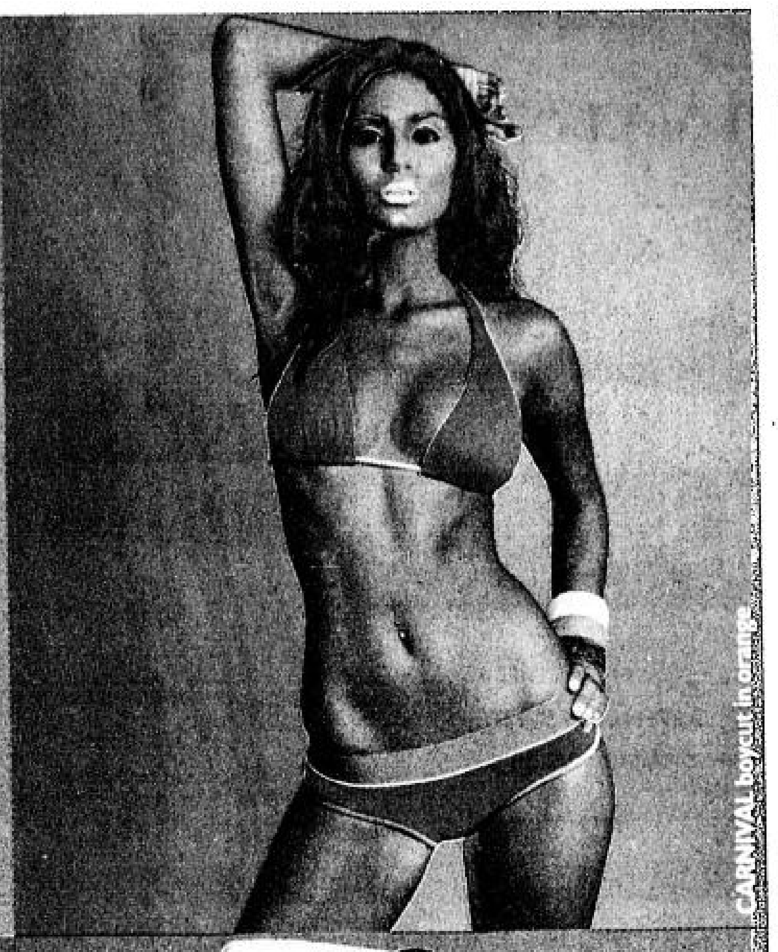
PUCCI'S signature prints are op-art-like delights that can provide instant style to any boring outfit. Pucci Rifflesi Shopper, Available at Homme et Femme

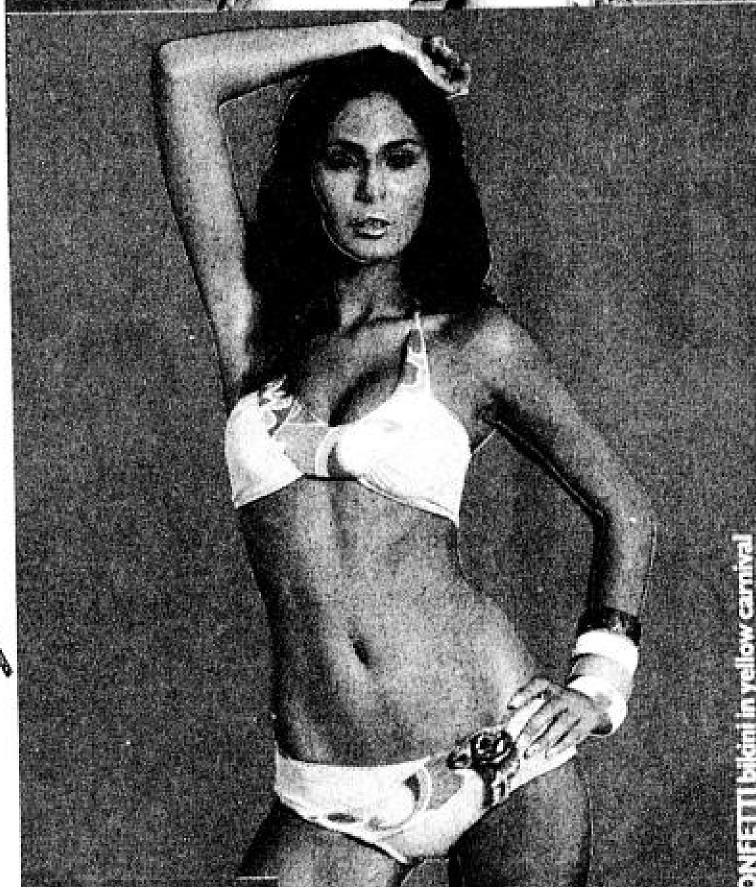
BURSTS of color and the ubiquitous Ferragamo leopard keep this handbag and your choice of attire chic, sleek and timeless.

PAINT your summer wardrobe pretty with Kate Spade's Palma Cabana Handbag.

Eye-POPping beach babe picks


BOSSA Nova suit in red fuego


CARNIVAL boycut in orange


CONFETTI bikini in yellow carnival

FLORA Bossa bandeau in serpentina

The great swimsuit search

Swimsuit shopping need not be a traumatic experience. Learn how to highlight what you love about your figure and how to disguise the parts you hate by following this simple guide:

- Fit is the most important consideration. Focus on how the suit looks and feels on your body, not the number on the tag, and remember the following fit-tips:

STRAPS

- Swimsuit straps should lie comfortably on your shoulders. If they dig in, try a bigger size. If they fall off, go one size down.
- Move around to see if the straps stay on.

BODY

- For maillots, the torso portion should stay perfectly flat and conform to the shape of your body and spine.
- The seams shouldn't pucker and there should be no pulling on your busts, straps and crotch.

BUST

- Lift your arms to ensure that you have enough coverage and the bra does not move up.
- Adjustable straps are best so you'll feel comfortable and secure.
- Tops with underwire or built-in cups should fit as well as your bra.
- Your top should contain without confining.

LEG OPENINGS

- The leg opening and waistband should never pucker or dig into your skin. If it does, go a size up.
- If you need more coverage, pick another style, not a bigger size.
- The most flattering leg height or opening is one-inch below the top of the hipbone. Start with that and experiment with other styles.
- Take your activity into account. If you intend to engage in water sports like skiing, windsurfing and the like, pick a more practical suit such as a two-piece with a dependable top that will stay in place.
- Try on styles you think you can never wear. String bikinis might surprisingly look good on you. These skimpy numbers may seem unforgiving but because it's adjustable, the suit will not dig into your skin. Try suits with prints, patterns, color blocking and details like shirring or a belt so you can find ways to draw attention to your assets and disguise your flaws.
- Experiment with colors. No need to stick with basic but slimming black. Consider your skin tone and choose hues that will complement it. Plus, improve your proportions by using dark hues on area you would like to minimize and bright colors on areas you would like to emphasize.

SOURCES: THE LUCKY SHOPPING MANUAL BY KIM FRANCE AND ANDREA LINETT; IN STYLE SECRETS OF STYLE BY THE EDITORS OF IN STYLE

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

TRANSPORT YOURself to the exotic beaches of Brazil and channel that goddess (or should I say girl?) from Ipanema who was rightfully immortalized in Jobim's timeless Bossa Nova classic. Can't do it literally? Try slipping on any one of Speedo by Rosa Chá's swimwear collection and let your imagination do the rest.

In a bold, much-needed update of their swimwear line, the company that first designed the racerback swimsuit in 1928 collaborated with Brazil's hottest swimwear designer Rosa Chá in 2005 to come up with a sophisticated, cosmopolitan collection for fashion-conscious consumers. Following the success of last year's partnership, the established swimsuit company once again joined forces with the trailblazing designer to present their spring/summer 2006 collection, which sun lovers and beach goddesses will surely covet.

Taking inspiration from strong Brazilian musical influences, Chá employed vibrant colors, intricate adornments and embroideries to reflect the vibrant, Afro-Brazilian rhythms of Maracatu, celebrated at carnival in the Pernambuco region of Brazil. For a more laid-back, romantic feel, she then used softer, more muted colors and prints inspired by Bossa Nova, Brazil's mellow, sophisticated beach grooves.

Speedo, which was undeniably a market leader in the competitive athletic arena, finally offers stylish options for fashionistas in search of seriously sexy beach-babe getups or poolside glamour gear.

So remember, next time you want to look or at the very least, feel, anything like Jobim's tall, tan and lovely seaside heartbreaker, all you need is a relatively active imagination, a good dose of confidence and a Brazilian-inspired swimsuit, of course!

E-mail the author at afashion@inquirer.com.ph

PHOTOGRAPHY SARA BLACK
MODEL BRUNA ABDALAH CHRISTOFOLI
GRAPHIC ARTIST BLISS MABINI
MAKEUP ARTIST ALLEN ROSALES
SWIMWEAR SPEEDO BY ROSA CHA

Diamante daze

Haute jeweler Carissa Oledan Coscolluela turns staple accessories of our generation into true works of art

Mabuhay!

Jenni Epperson

WHEN ANDY WARHOL channeled his artistic prowess into, of all things, Campbell's soup cans, some souls in the world probably did a double-take and said, "What the—?"

But the soup cans have endured, reaching immortal pop-art status, proving that yes, anyone—anything—can have 15 minutes of fame.

True enough, these days the camera hog herd can become popular using the PH (Paris Hilton) formula: skimpy attire + "that's hot" pose = flashbulb fame.

And anything can become a work of art. In this day and age of mass production, there's a longing for the extraordinary—that special something that can make you stand out from the rest of the pack. The few, the proud and the seriously loaded are on the prowl for The Next Luxe Loot.

Still calling
Bejeweled MotoRazr V3i

Hello trinkets!

Cell phones first appeared in our lives (in the shoulder pad-obsessed '80s) as big, bulky devices that could double as murder weapons, with a hefty price tag to match. Back then, they were the prized possessions of the rich and the powerful.

Today, everybody owns a cell phone, from your honey's barber to the *tindera* at your favorite Jollijeep to life-sized Bratz doll Paris Hilton herself. And in a cell phone-crazed country such as ours, everybody's doing his best to personalize these babies: cool covers, fancy pouches or the latest mind-invading ring tones ("Hello Moto auto mo 'to…").

Enter luxury cell phones—embellished, bejeweled, encrusted and downright dazzling.

Emerging from a tradition of excellence and prestige in the private haute jewelry industry, Carissa Oledan Coscolluela turns this staple accessory of our generation into a true work of art.

Think of it as the Faberge Easter egg for the modern woman.

Carissa comes from a family of jewelers so exclusive that you need a personal intro to even get to see their stuff (stuff that dazzled Imelda and her Blue Ladies). Carissa has adorned the face of the sleek and spanking-new MotoRazr V3i with real diamonds, sapphires, emeralds and rubies in sparkling waves and hoops. This limited edition truly caters to "those with the luxury of true luxury."

It's less about ring tone and more about bling stone. Which makes perfect sense when you consider that tinseltown's elite have got jewels on their teeth, their pimp cups, their pets' dog collars.

Obviously, however, these treasured trinkets are not for the budget bunch. With the skyrocketing inflation rates, you'd rather that these mine marvels not be on your phone, but at the nearest pawnshop instead (kidding!).

Green with envy
Emeralds and diamond combination

Eye candy
shu uemura
Sapphires and diamonds false eyelashes available at Shu Uemura

Twinkle of an eye (lash)

In the 1960s, Twiggy made them famous, taking "wide-eyed look" to a whole new level. By the grunged-out 1990s, false eyelashes were labeled as way too flamboyant, an overly flashy fashion faux pas. They were considered the accessory of the stage actress, the Las Vegas showgirl with her endless legs and ostrich feathers (I love them flamboyant gazelles!).

By the 2001 Academy Awards, however, they had migrated to JLo's eyes. Her makeup artist requested cosmetics emperor Mr. Shu Uemura to create a special pair of red mink lashes, and a trend was sparked.

When Madonna wore her handmade, customized Shu Uemura diamond-encrusted mink false eyelashes for her Dance Floor Diva look (a look that cost $10,000!), she fanned the flames some more, and these lashes have never looked back.

Bright, you-can-spot-me-50-miles-away purple, or a lush black that borders on velvet and leaves you feeling like Marlene Dietrich, or a row of rhinestones or beads—the ways and means to make eyes have left women feeling like a 6-year-old in a candy shop.

Consider Carissa Oledan Coscolluela's false eyelashes from Shu Uemura, encrusted not only with diamonds, but sapphires, rubies and emeralds as well. All your best friends are here, girls. Yummy!

If you're itching for what's hot and you've got wads of cash to spare, by all means, reach for these baubles. These eye candies can become heavyweight investments in so many years, just like those Warhol soup cans and detergent boxes.

A word to the wise, however. If you do decide to get your paws on one, do yourself a favor and try not to leave it in a VIP booth or a powder room. And whatever you do, don't let them catch you saying, "Let them eat cake!"

E-mail the author at jfashion@inquirer.com.ph

THE MARCH 28 BEJEWELED LAUNCH IS PRESENTED BY SHU UEMURA, MOTOROLA, SMART INFINITY AND CARISSA OLEDAN COSCOLLUELA, AND SUPPORTED BY BAILEY'S, SMIRNOFF AND MEGAWORLD.
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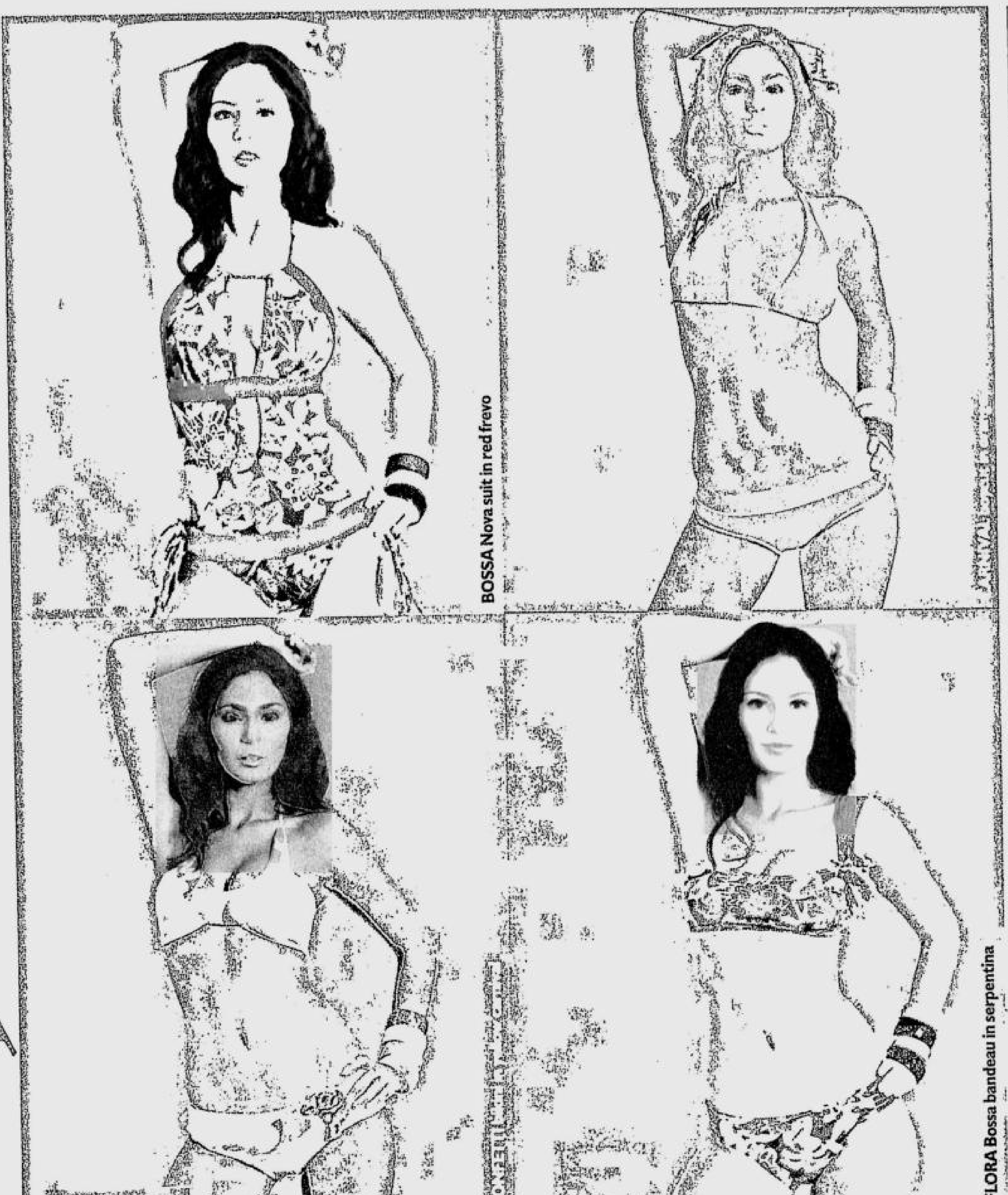
Eye-POPping beach babe picks



BOSSA Nova suit in red frevo

FLORA Bossa bandeau in serpentina

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- Your top should contain without confining.

LEG OPENINGS

- The leg opening and waistband should never pucker or dig into your skin. If it does, go a size up.
- If you need more coverage, pick another style, not a bigger size.
- The most flattering leg height or opening is one-inch below the top of the hipbone. Start with that and experiment with other styles.
- Take your activity into account. If you intend to engage in water sports like skiing, windsurfing and the like, pick a more practical suit such as a two-piece with a dependable top that will stay in place.
- Try on styles you think you can never wear. String bikinis might surprisingly look good on you. These skimpy numbers may seem unforgiving but because it's adjustable, the suit will not dig into your skin. Try suits with prints, patterns, color blocking and details like shirring or a belt so you can find ways to draw attention to your assets and disguise your flaws.
- Experiment with colors. No need to stick with basic but slimming black. Consider your skin tone and choose hues that will complement it. Plus, improve your proportions by using dark hues on area you would like to minimize and bright colors on areas you would like to emphasize.

SOURCES: THE LUCKY SHOPPING MANUAL BY KIM FRANCE AND ANDREA LINETT; IN STYLE SECRETS OF STYLE BY THE EDITORS OF IN STYLE

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

TRANSPORT YOURself to the exotic beaches of Brazil and channel that goddess (or should I say girl?) from Ipanema who was rightfully immortalized in Jobim's timeless Bossa Nova classic. Can't do it literally? Try slipping on any one of Speedo by Rosa Chá's swimwear collection and let your imagination do the rest.

In a bold, much-needed update of their swimwear line, the company that first designed the racerback swimsuit in 1928 collaborated with Brazil's hottest swimwear designer Rosa Chá in 2005 to come up with a sophisticated, cosmopolitan collection for fashion-conscious consumers. Following the success of last year's partnership, the established swimsuit company once again joined forces with the trailblazing designer to present their spring/summer 2006 collection, which sun lovers and beach goddesses will surely covet.

Taking inspiration from strong Brazilian musical influences, Chá employed vibrant colors, intricate adornments and embroideries to reflect the vibrant, Afro-Brazilian rhythms of Maracatu, celebrated at carnival in the Pernambuco region of Brazil. For a more laid-back, romantic feel, she then used softer, more muted colors and prints inspired by Bossa Nova, Brazil's mellow, sophisticated beach grooves.

Speedo, which was undeniably a market leader in the competitive athletic arena, finally offers stylish options for fashionistas in search of seriously sexy beach-babe getups or poolside glamour gear.

So remember, next time you want to look or at the very least, feel, anything like Jobim's tall, tan and lovely seaside heartbreaker, all you need is a relatively active imagination, a good dose of confidence and a Brazilian-inspired swimsuit, of course!

E-mail the author at afashion@inquirer.com.ph

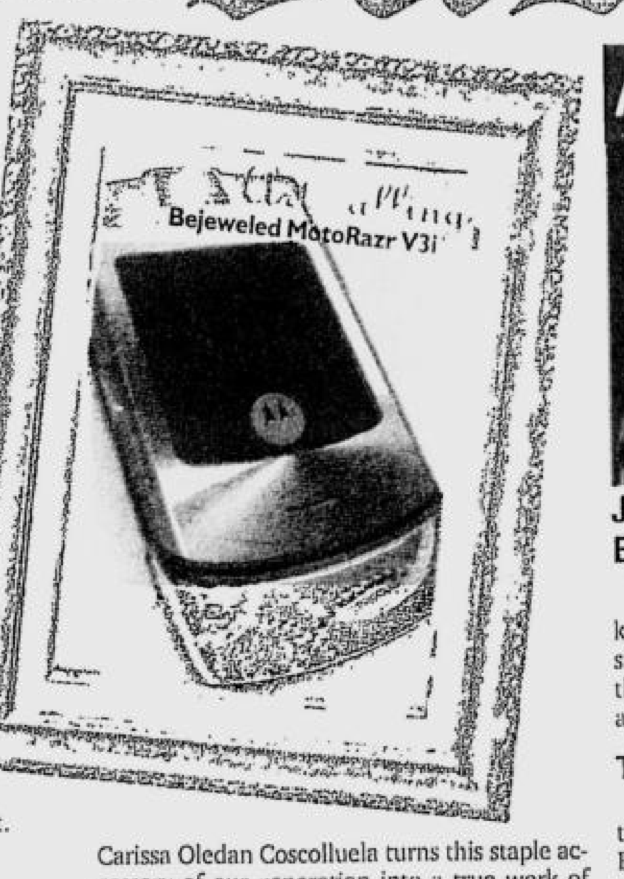
PHOTOGRAPHY SARA BLACK
MODEL BRUNA ABDALAH CHRISTOFOLI
GRAPHIC ARTIST BLISS MABINI
MAKEUP ARTIST ALLEN ROSALES
SWIMWEAR SPEEDO BY ROSA CHA

Diamante Daze

Haute jeweler Carissa Oledan Coscolluela turns staple accessories of our generation into true works of art

Mabuhay!

Jenni Epperson



WHEN ANDY WARHOL channeled his artistic prowess into, of all things, Campbell's soup cans, some souls in the world probably did a double-take and said, "What the—?"

But the soup cans have endured, reaching immortal pop-art status, proving that yes, anyone—anything—can have 15 minutes of fame.

True enough, these days the camera hog herd can become popular using the PH (Paris Hilton) formula: skimpy attire + "that's hot" pose = flashbulb fame.

And anything can become a work of art. In this day and age of mass production, there's a longing for the extraordinary—that special something that can make you stand out from the rest of the pack. The few, the proud and the seriously loaded are on the prowl for The Next Luxe Loot.

Hello trinkets!

Cell phones first appeared in our lives (in the shoulder pad-obsessed '80s) as big, bulky devices that could double as murder weapons, with a hefty price tag to match. Back then, they were the prized possessions of the rich and the powerful.

Today, everybody owns a cell phone, from your honey's barber to the *tindera* at your favorite Jollijeep to life-sized Bratz doll Paris Hilton herself. And in a cell phone-crazed country such as ours, everybody's doing his best to personalize these babies: cool covers, fancy pouches or the latest mind-invading ring tones ("Hello Moto auto mo 'to...").

Enter luxury cell phones—embellished, bejeweled, encrusted and downright dazzling.

Emerging from a tradition of excellence and prestige in the private haute jewelry industry, Carissa Oledan Coscolluela turns this staple accessory of our generation into a true work of art.

Think of it as the Faberge Easter egg for the modern woman.

Carissa comes from a family of jewelers so exclusive that you need a personal intro to even get to see their stuff (stuff that dazzled Imelda and her Blue Ladies). Carissa has adorned the face of the sleek and spanking-new MotoRazr V3i with real diamonds, sapphires, emeralds and rubies in sparkling waves and hoops. This limited edition truly caters to "those with the luxury of true luxury."

It's less about ring tone and more about bling stone. Which makes perfect sense when you consider that tinseltown's elite have got jewels on their teeth, their pimp cups, their pets' dog collars.

Obviously, however, these treasured trinkets are not for the budget bunch. With the skyrocketing inflation rates, you'd rather that these mine marvels not be on your phone, but at the nearest pawnshop instead (kidding!).

Twinkle of an eye (lash)

In the 1960s, Twiggy made them famous, taking "wide-eyed look" to a whole new level. By the grunged-out 1990s, false eyelashes were labeled as way too flamboyant, an overly flashy fashion faux pas. They were considered the accessory of the stage actress, the Las Vegas showgirl with her endless legs and ostrich feathers (I love them flamboyant gazelles!).

By the 2001 Academy Awards, however, they had migrated to JLo's eyes. Her makeup artist requested cosmetics emperor Mr. Shu Uemura to create a special pair of red mink lashes, and a trend was sparked.

When Madonna wore her handmade, customized Shu Uemura diamond-encrusted mink false eyelashes for her Dance Floor Diva look (a look that cost $10,000!), she fanned the flames some more, and these lashes have never looked back.

Bright, you-can-spot-me-50-miles-away purple, or a lush black that borders on velvet and leaves you feeling like Marlene Dietrich, or a row of rhinestones or beads—the ways and means to make eyes have left women feeling like a 6-year-old in a candy shop.

Consider Carissa Oledan Coscolluela's false eyelashes from Shu Uemura, encrusted not only with diamonds, but sapphires, rubies and emeralds as well. All your best friends are here, girls. Yummy!

If you're itching for what's hot and you've got wads of cash to spare, by all means, reach for these baubles. These eye candies can become heavyweight investments in so many years, just like those Warhol soup cans and detergent boxes.

A word to the wise, however. If you do decide to get your paws on one, do yourself a favor and try not to leave it in a VIP booth or a powder room. And whatever you do, don't let them catch you saying, "Let them eat cake!"

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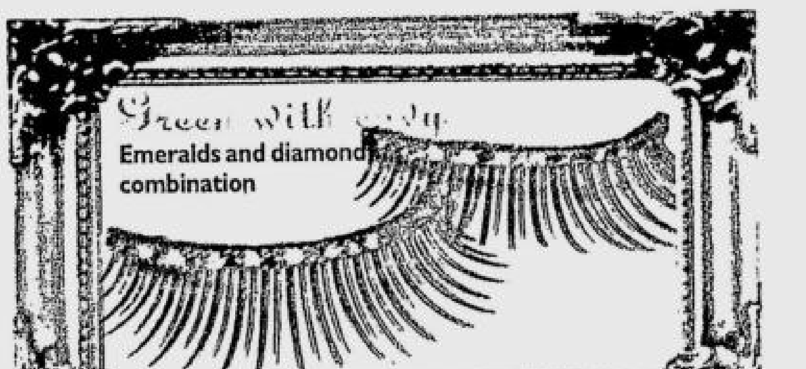

Sapphires and diamonds false eyelashes available at Shu Uemura

THE MARCH 28 BEJEWELED LAUNCH IS PRESENTED BY SHU UEMURA, MOTOROLA, SMART INFINITY AND CARISSA OLEDAN COSCOLLUELA, AND SUPPORTED BY BAILEY'S, SMIRNOFF AND MEGAWORLD

THE SHU UEMURA TOKYO LASH BAR FALSE EYELASHES ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT SHU UEMURA COUNTERS. CALL RUSTAN'S MAKATI (8) 33739 LOCAL 220 AND RUSTAN'S SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL (6) 34636 LOCAL 201 FOR A PERSONALIZED LASH CONSULTATION

THE MOTORAZR V3I PHONE IS ALSO ALREADY AVAILABLE IN THE MARKET. FOR EVERY SMART INFINITY SUBSCRIPTION MADE ON THE NIGHT OF THE LAUNCH, RECEIVE A MOTORAZR V3I, TWO RAZR WIRES AND SHU UEMURA SUMMER ESSENTIALS KIT

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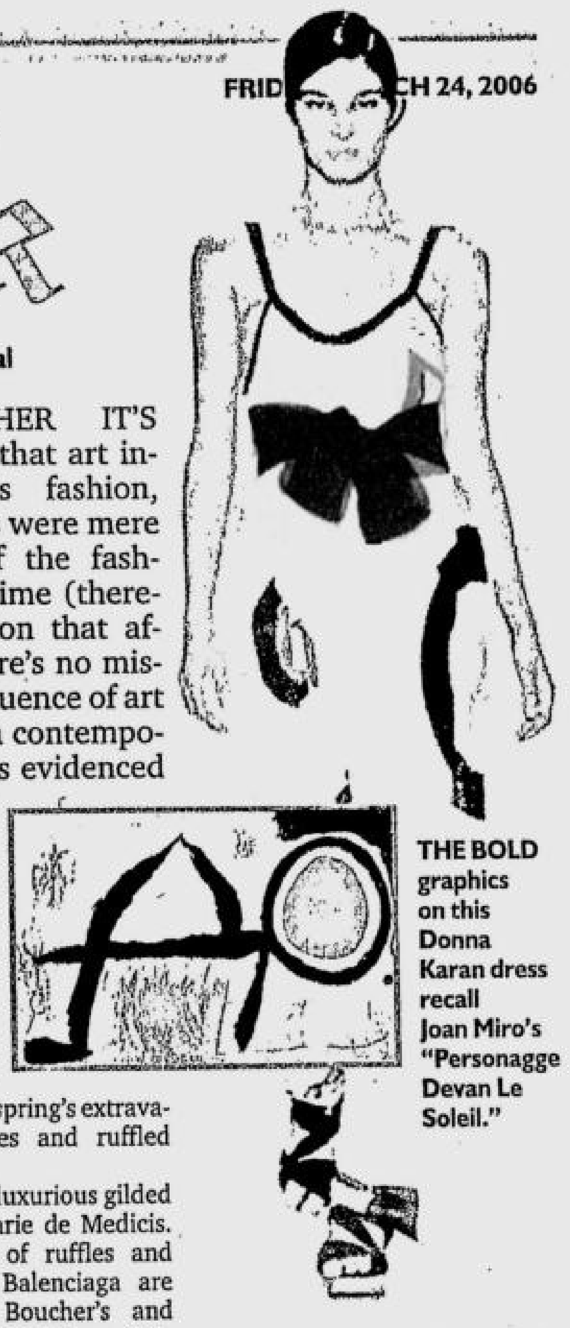
From canvas to catwalk

This season's bold prints seem to have jumped off framed works by a wide pantheon of artists

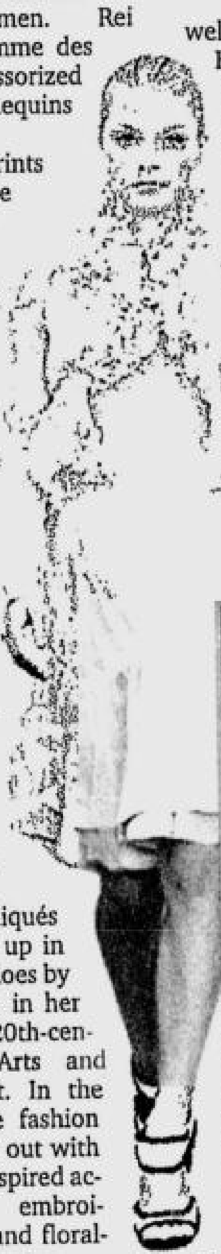
By Cheche V. Moral

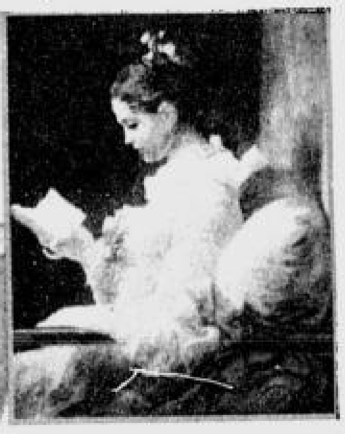

THE BOLD graphics on this Donna Karan dress recall Joan Miro's "Personagge Devan Le Soleil."

WHETHER IT'S true that art inspires fashion, or the masters were mere chroniclers of the fashions of their time (therefore it's fashion that affects art), there's no mistaking the influence of art movements in contemporary trends, as evidenced by the Spring 2006 collections.

Rich and elaborate ornamentations that hark back to 17th- to 18th-century baroque architecture are manifested in some of spring's extravagant embroideries and ruffled dresses.

Some come in luxurious gilded fabrics fit for Marie de Medicis. The abundance of ruffles and high collars at Balenciaga are reminiscent of Boucher's and Fragonard's women. Rei Kawakubo for Comme des Garçons even accessorized her catwalk mannequins with crowns.




EIGHTEENTH-century ruffled high collars, like the one worn by the woman in Jean-Honoré Fragonard's "The Reader," ca. 1770-1772, reappear in this off-white Balenciaga.

Spring's bold prints seem to have jumped off framed works by specific artists, like Pierre-Joseph Redouté's roses onto Valentino's floral-print pieces and Dolce and Gabbana's shoes and bags. A couple of dresses and a handbag by Donna Karan conjured the palette of the surrealist Joan Miró, while Fendi's is reminiscent of "Remembrance of a Garden," a work by the Swiss expressionist Paul Klee.

Floral appliqués have also turned up in the dresses and shoes by Carolina Herrera, in her nod to the early 20th-century Viennese Arts and Crafts Movement. In the same vein, some fashion houses also came out with Arts and Crafts-inspired accessories, like embroidered, and lace and floral-beaded bags from Fendi.

Others looked to the East for reference, perhaps well-timed for the release of the Hollywood flick "Memoirs of a Geisha." Oriental prints, stylized kimonos and modern takes on the obi were sent to the runways by Lanvin, Paco Rabanne, Alexander McQueen, Dries Van Noten. There were bags with bamboo handles at Gucci and, from Lanvin, Japanese-inspired platform heels that bring geisha getas to mind.

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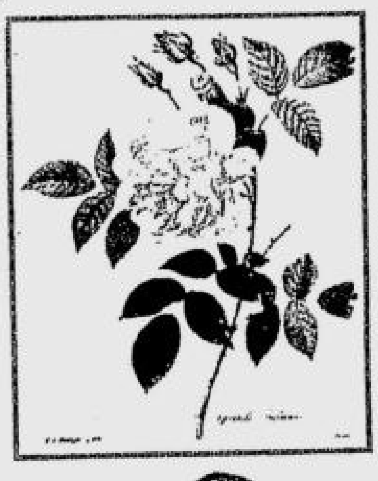
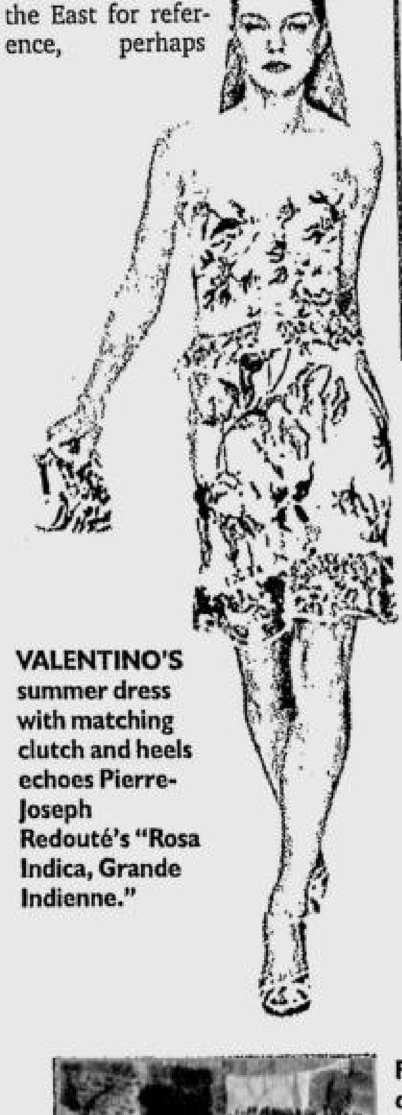
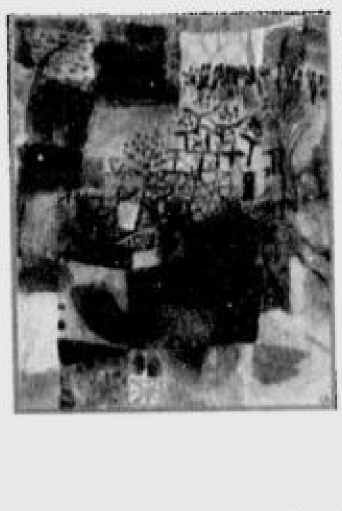
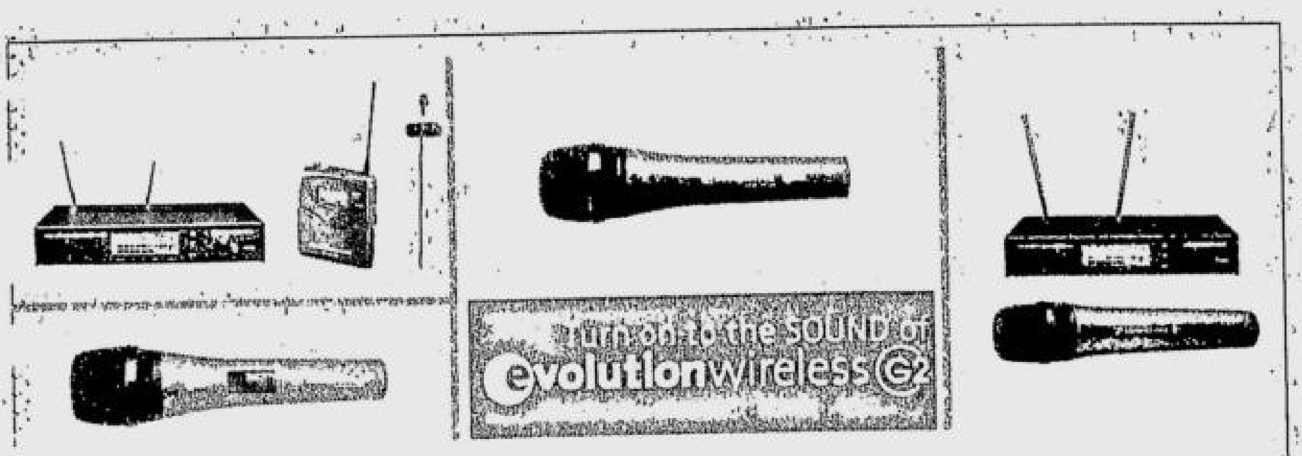



VALENTINO'S summer dress with matching clutch and heels echoes Pierre-Joseph Redouté's "Rosa Indica, Grande Indienne."


FENDI'S dress is reminiscent of Paul Klee's "Remembrance of a Garden," ca. 1914.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